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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

‘Pagan, Alamagan, Agrigan also need aid’

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Much attention is focused on Saipan right now due to the widespread damage of Typhoon Soudelor but Northern Islands residents also need assistance to rebuild after Typhoon Nangka destroyed several homes and structures last month.

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan said he and several of his staff went north to conduct damage assessment soon after Typhoon Nangka

See PAGAN on Page 4

More than 2K homes inspected; financial aid now to $4.3M

Total housing inspections conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency has reached 2,005 households, an update from the CNMI Joint Information Center said.

As of Wednesday, more than 7,500 registrations have been received by the FEMA, and more than $4.29 million have been approved for disaster-related assistance.

Other FEMA updates include the installation almost 90 concrete utility poles on CNMI.

Around 58 wells are currently operable with 4.7 million gallons of potable water being pumped into the system daily.

For transportation, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Port of Saipan have both resumed 24/7 operations. For communications, nine of 10 commercial cellular sites are back online with emergency power, the FEMA also said.

About 81 generators are currently being used for continuing additional assessments and installations.

So far, some 8,826 cubic yards debris has been cleared.

Survivors are still being encouraged to register for assistance.

See HOMES on Page 4

Fallen trees translate to good charcoal business

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As the saying goes, one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.

While fallen trees have been a major problem to the government and people since Typhoon Soudelor’s massive destruction, they have been a boon to the island’s charcoal manufacturers.

Charcoal manufacturers have been helping the government and people clear up roads and pathways of toppled trees, while making good business out of it.

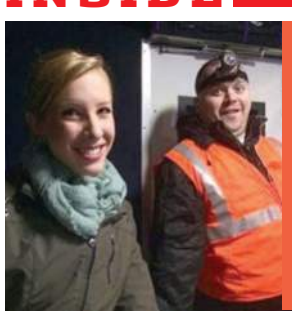
In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Farhanul Islam Tonmoy, 28, operations manager of MDA Enterprises, said before Soudelor, they had to go around the island for areas with *tangan-*

See TREES on Page 4

MDA Enterprises operations manager Farhanul Islam Tonmoy arranges yesterday the cut *tangan-tangan* and ironwood trees that they just picked up from roads and other areas on the island after Typhoon Soudelor. The gathered wood are made into charcoal to supply hotels and stores.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE



NATION

A fired reporter kills his two former co-workers on live TV.

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WORLD

Throughout history, barriers have been used to keep people out—and in

» PAGE 20

OFF THE WALL

Two rescued giant pythons are finally headed to a sanctuary.

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Local

Riegel: CUC ahead of schedule in restoring power to Garapan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is ahead of schedule in re-energizing the Garapan tourist district, restoring power to the area around the T Galleria, according to acting CUC executive director John Riegel.

After a status conference for federal court-stipulated orders, Riegel said he would be meeting with CUC power manager Gary Camacho to go over plans to re-energizing the island.

People want a timeframe for power restoration, Riegel acknowledged, but CUC has not given an exact date for power restoration as their efforts rely on shipment of materials and other logistics.

Some 1,200 poles—200 of them concrete power poles—are planned for the islandwide power restoration efforts.

After Typhoon Soudelor hit over three weeks ago, CUC's priorities were to restore power to the hospital, then airport, and then the Garapan tourist district.

According to Riegel, he planned to discuss with Camacho yesterday what plans come after these priorities.

Since Saturday and throughout the week, CUC and the Guam Power Authority have been installing the 90 concrete poles that arrived over the weekend.

Riegel earlier said about half of the poles were installed on Tuesday.

He confirmed yesterday the shipment of another 110 concrete poles, though he did not yet know when they would arrive. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Carter applauds island's rebuilding efforts

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The federal judge overseeing court stipulated order projects for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is on island this week, getting updates on oft-delayed infrastructure projects.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter presided over a status conference between federal attorneys and Commonwealth officials yesterday.

He also took time to address the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor, which crippled the power and generation capacity of the utility he is overseeing.

The status conference was brief, lasting about 10 minutes. It started at 4pm.

To begin the meeting, Carter expressed his great concern for the people of Saipan in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor.

Carter, who arrived on Saipan last weekend, said he has personally spoken to people on island.

See CARTER on Page 4

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Notorious burglar gets maximum 20 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A notorious burglar who pleaded guilty to burglarizing eight vehicles in San Vicente and violating his probation in two previous convictions has been sentenced to a maximum of 20 years in prison.

"The court reminds the defendant and others who break the law that the sign at the front of this building says House of Justice," Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho told the 26-year-old Roland Hernandez Muña.

Camacho noted that Muña is a repeat offender who has made a career out of committing crimes from a very young age.

Muña has four other past criminal cases as an adult and four criminal cases, one curfew violation, and one driving under the influence case when he was a juvenile.

Camacho pointed out that it's the first time that Muna's case has been assigned to his court.

"Due to an extensive criminal history the court imposes a sentence that will ensure Muña will spend each and every day for the next 20 years as an inmate of the CNMI Department of Corrections," Camacho said.

Muña pleaded guilty to burglary, theft, and criminal mischief as part of a plea deal. He also admitted to violating his probation in his two prior criminal convictions. He was represented in the case by assistant public defender Matthew Meyer.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represented the government.

Camacho first sentenced Muña to 15 years in prison, to be served without the possibility of parole, for burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

For violating probation in two prior criminal convictions, Camacho sentenced Muña to five more years in prison, also to be served without the possibility of parole,

Both sentences shall run consecutively, which means the total prison term is 20 years, with credit for time served.

Camacho said the restitution ordered in two prior criminal cases, amounting to $4,140 and $340, shall be converted to a civil judgment.

Muña was also prohibited from having any contact with his victims and to stay at least 100 feet away from Hilltop Apartments and Stanford Apartments.

Muña burglarized a 2006 Toyota Yaris at Stanford Hotel/Apartments in San Vicente on May 27, 2015, and damaged the car's rear passenger triangular window. He stole a golf club set, Nike kids gold bag containing golf clubs and golf balls, Marc Jacob sunglasses, USB chargers, two boxes of dictionaries, Dior sunglasses, and a $20 gas card.

Police arrested Muña after a witness called 911 at 1:41am about a burglary and theft in progress on vehicles in the parking lot of Stanford Hotel.

Police officers responded and arrested Muña after a chase.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan handled the investigation.

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Group to focus on long-term recovery being organized

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

A group of various organizations on Saipan met yesterday to focus on long-term recovery efforts on island following the widespread destruction of Typhoon Soudelor.

Non-government groups, non-profits, faith-based, grass roots organizations as well as companies and individual volunteers gathered for the second time at the Office of the Governor's conference room. Representatives from the local government as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency were also present to assist.

"As many organizations as they are on island, they are included. And we have hundreds of organizations, so everyone is invited to attend," volunteer and facilitator Gerri Willis said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of various organizations on Saipan met yesterday at the Office of the Governor's conference room to focus on long-term recovery efforts on island following the widespread destruction of Typhoon Soudelor.

During the meeting, organizations such as Karidat, American Red Cross, Americorps, United-4Saipan, Saipan Young Professionals, Cornerstone Church, United Filipino Organization, Saipan Community Church, Seventh Day Adventists, Tan Holdings, and Best Sunshine spoke of what each of them are doing as their contribution to the relief efforts in the community.

"It brings together all the organizations as we found out today what the different organizations are doing. Most of the people here don't know what the other organizations are doing and how they can work with them," Willis said.

This long-term recovery group, which is composed also of many from the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, will be having a different structure and is in the process of naming themselves as well as setting their mission and vision as one big organization.

They are currently organizing into subcommittees such as communications, workforce development, construction management, and resource management.

One of the volunteers, Glen Hunter, said it is crucial to build a coalition of existing groups for networking of resources and collaborating efforts.

"We are past the short-term relief. We're into the mid-term and long-term and that's what this group is going to address. It will also give a unified voice to all of these groups," Hunter said.

For their part, Best Sunshine said they wanted to be a part of any relief and recovery effort.

"For us to get into this platform and understand the needs of the community and also understand where we can contribute is really important," Tao Xing, CSO of Imperial Pacific/Best Sunshine, said.

PH honorary consul office can now authenticate documents

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Filipinos needing to authenticate their documents can now avail of this service on island.

According to honorary consul to the Philippines Glicerio "Eli" Arago, Filipinos need not send their documents to Guam anymore just to be processed.

"The dry seal arrived already," Arago said.

The team of the Department of Foreign Affairs who visited the island over the weekend brought the needed materials that Arago needed to be able to authenticate and acknowledge documents.

Prior to this service being available here, documents needing the dry seal and the ribbon had to be notarized first by the Attorney General's Office for a fee and then sent to Guam for processing.

Now that it's offered through the Honorary Consul's Office, it will save time and money for individuals as well as employers.

Since being made available to the public, many have already sought the service.

Arago said many employers already told them that they are thankful because they were able to lower their courier costs and their processing time is much shorter.

Processing time is around two days but can be expedited to one day.

Authentication and verification of employment contracts costs $35 while special power of attorneys will cost $25.

For more information and those who need to avail of this service can contact Arago at eli_arago@philhoncon-cnmi.org or Mel Santos at 233-2898.

CARTER

From Page 2

The federal judge praised the "Hafa Adai spirit" and the island's efforts to rebuild.

Before the meeting yesterday, informal sessions between federal officials and CUC were held.

Representing CUC yesterday was counsel James Sirok. Teresita Sablan of the Office of the Attorney General represented the Commonwealth.

Representing the federal government were Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, and EPA assistant regional counsel Janet Magnuson.

O'Brien told Carter that they are looking to find ways to make the infrastructure projects of the "SO2" more efficient.

"Stipulated Order 2" involves the construction of a fuel tank and pipeline.

O'Brien and Sirok discussed before the judge an informal draft to "simplify procedures associated with the pipeline" project.

Sirok said they are close to reaching a resolution in issue.

As for the "Tank 102 project," the attorneys discussed replacing the quality-control individual at the site.

CUC has reported defective welding in their Tank 102 project.

The Tank 102 project involves a 500,000-gallon diesel tank that will replace Tank 010, which has been found to be a source of pollution and is unrepairable.

TREES

From Page 1

tangan and ironwood or pine trees.

Tonmoy said they would either buy the trees from the land owners or get them for free in exchange for clearing their lands.

"Now it's easy because of the typhoon. You just pick them up from the roads and other places," said Tonmoy.

Clearing up a farm or an area of *tangan-tangan* trees and transporting them usually take them one to two days.

He explained that *tangan-tangan* trees are the best choice for making charcoal because they don't produce much smoke and do not leave a bad smell on the barbecue.

He said the second best are ironwood trees because they are big, hard, and also do not produce too much smoke.

After cutting the trees, they would bring them to a container and burn them, a process that would take two days. They would then wait for four more days to cool down everything, after which they now have charcoal to sell.

Before Soudelor, the whole process to make charcoal—starting from the cutting trees to the cool down period—would take them 10 days, Tonmoy said.

After Soudelor, since there are a lot of downed trees, the process takes them just eight days.

It would take about 15 pickups of *tangan-tangan* or ironwood trees to fill up one container and this will produce 300 bags of charcoal. Each bag of charcoal costs $5.

There are about five charcoal manufacturers on the island.

Tonmoy said their company has been in business for 15 years now and is the oldest among on island manufacturers.

Tonmoy said their company produces charcoal three to four times a month, while others could only make once or twice a month.

"It's hard to make charcoal. It requires hard labor and it's hot," he said.

He said with lots of downed trees, they may be able to produce more charcoal than usual.

Manufacturers make charcoal in secluded areas to avoid complaints about smoke from neighbors.

Tonmoy said landowners would generally either call or look for them to have their lands cleared of trees so they could either build a structure or plant.

He said before cutting trees, they have to check first whether the landowners have all the necessary permits.

The next thing they do, Tonmoy said, is check the farm whether it has endangered bird species like nightingale reed-warblers because they don't want to violate federal laws.

Although Soudelor struck the island between Aug. 2 and 3, Tonmoy said they only started picking up fallen *tangan-tangan* and ironwood trees six days later because he and his coworkers were also affected by the typhoon.

He said their container, located in Finasisu, was also damaged.

Tonmoy said charcoal is good business on the island because there's an abundance of *tangan-tangan* and ironwood trees.

He said the demand is also sufficient because local people like to barbecue while tourists like to eat barbecued food.

Tonmoy said their company has been supplying charcoal to hotels and stores.

While they currently don't have a problem with their wood supply, Tonmoy said that a lot of thieves have been stealing their chainsaws and bags of charcoal from their warehouse.

PAGAN

From Page 1

moved away from the region.

Aldan said that Pagan, Agrigan, and Alamagan were affected and all homes were damaged by Nangka's 145 to 160 miles per hour winds after making landfall last July 9. Nine residents call the three Northern Islands home.

Aldan said that Alamagan sustained some damage but Agrigan and Pagan had greater damage since most homes on both islands only have tin roofs.

According to Jose Selepeo of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Edward L. Saures' house, which is made of tin, was damaged and its outside kitchen was totally destroyed.

Aldan said that tins covering the concrete water tanks, which the residents use for cooking, drinking, and showering, were all blown off.

He said three concrete water catchment tanks were damaged. Two concrete water catchments are next to a dispensary while the other is next to the beach or docking area.

"The only outside assistance that was extended to the residents of Agrigan was from American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. Red Cross donated ice chests, blankets, comfort kits, rakes, and shovels for the residents to use," Aldan said.

On Pagan, the roof of former Northern Islands mayor Tobias Aldan's house blew off and his storage shack was totally damaged, Aldan said.

The house of another Pagan resident, Santiago Castro, was also totally damaged, including his outside kitchen and toilet. Other residents' houses also sustained some damage.

The Red Cross was able to provide ice chests, blankets, comfort kits, rakes, and shovels.

Assistance needed

Aldan said his office needs assistance to obtain lumber, tin, nails, and concrete materials to assist the residents in covering the water wells, which they use for cooking and showering so that debris and dirt does not fall in.

"The materials are also needed to replace the dilapidated wood used as windows for the church, which the residents use as typhoon shelter. The single sideband radio communication also needs upgrading or replacement. Residents…oftentimes are unable to transmit information from Pagan to the main island of Saipan," he said.

For Agrigan, lumber, tin, nails, and even concrete materials are needed for the renovation of a concrete water catchment and the tin roof for the dispensary. Aldan said the latter is used as a typhoon shelter and radio room.

"The single sideband radio communication also needs upgrading or replacement as well," he said.

HOMES

From Page 1

Reminders

FEMA is reminding survivors that the funds they receive should be used only for disaster-related needs.

"Survivors are reminded to use disaster grants wisely, and those who receive funds from FEMA will get a letter outlining what those funds should be used for. They are intended for disaster-related needs," the agency said.

The FEMA advisory further said if the applicant spends the money on anything other than the purpose for which the payment is intended, "no additional assistance may be granted if the need arises in the future."

FEMA is encouraging all survivors or those affected by the typhoon to register for assistance.

Individuals and households on Saipan can register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-3362; those who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585. Multilingual interpreters are available at the FEMA registration number, including Chinese, Tagalog, Japanese, and Korean. They can also apply online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Relief organizations speak at SHRM meeting

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Various organizations doing relief and recovery work on Saipan spoke to members of the Society for Human Resource Management yesterday to talk about how each organization can help employees in their time of need.

Langhoff

At SHRM's general monthly meeting held at Pacific Islands Club Saipan yesterday, representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and the Salvation Army spoke about their various services.

ARC executive director John Hirsh, who also gave an update on their case work, said they have already received almost 9,000 calls from households seeking assistance. Those who haven't called yet should reach out to 234-3459.

"We still have close to 3,000 people that, believe it or not, we still haven't been able to touch," Hirsh said.

He said ARC has already directed $3 million in direct assistance to families.

Hirsh also said that they are aiming to help get people out of the shelters. Currently, there are still more than 200 individuals staying in various shelters on island.

"This is an issue that we're collaborating with our local and federal partners to see if there's a way that we can mitigate these lengthy stays in the shelters. This is not a place for any of us would like to be spending two or three weeks in," Hirsh said.

Stephen Graves, operations chief for the unified Commonwealth and federal response, said, "It's important to focus to bring normalcy back to the island as close as possible."

Susan Langhoff, FEMA assistant external affairs officer for the private sector division, reminded SHRM members that those seeking assistance should call FEMA to register and that the deadline is on Oct. 5.

She added that registration is free and those who will be visited by FEMA inspectors should look for a FEMA identification so as not to be victimized by persons posing as inspectors. She added that registration numbers given to individuals should also be kept private as it contains all their personal information.

Langhoff also explained the use of SBA loan applications in the FEMA process even for home owners.

"FEMA is only allowed to make your home safe, habitable and secure. We are not allowed, by law, to restore it to pre-storm condition. The FEMA funds may not be sufficient for you to have your home fully restored and that's where the SBA loans come in to assist," Langhoff said

She added that if an individual is not eligible for an SBA loan, he or she can then apply for the "other needs program" of FEMA.

Salvation Army's Pastor Wayne Gillespie spoke about their continued feeding program.

"The primary mission of the Salvation Army in this particular disaster is mass feeding," Gillespie said.

Gillespie also talked about the efforts of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, or VOAD, which is a collaborative group of non-government, non-profit and faith-based organizations working together for various relief efforts in the community.

"The only way our community can recover is [by] working together," Hirsh said.

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Attendees will learn about adjustments and updates to NMC's 2015 Fall Semester that have been made due to the impact from Typhoon Soudelor. Attendees will also learn about financial aid options, registration procedures, and other important information. Those who attend the info session will also receive a waiver of the admission application and placement test fees.
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‘Conference committee’ formed to tackle budget

The Legislature has named representatives to a conference committee to tackle and review the proposed government budget for fiscal year 2016.

The House of Representatives and Senate both agreed on the draft $145-million budget, but each presented radically different appropriations for certain CNMI government agencies.

One major difference is $5.6 million that the Senate “moved around” so that more can be given to law enforcement agencies, particularly the Department of Public Safety.

The House eventually rejected the Senate version of the budget.

“There are a lot of issues with it so we rejected it,” Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said without disclosing specific details.

Conference committee

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) named Reps. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogomuro (R-Saipan), and Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) as members of the House’s conference committee.

Their counterparts in the Senate are Sens. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs that conducted the budget review for the Senate.

The House Speaker said the Legislature will soon determine a schedule on the meeting of the conference committee.

As with previous legislatures, the budget will now be discussed by a conference committee that will seek to hammer out a compromise budget.

The budget that will be approved by the conference committee will then be sent to both the House of Representatives and the Senate before being transmitted to Gov. Eloy S. Inos for signing. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Judiciary lauds inclusion of drug court in Senate proposed budget

The Commonwealth Senate’s proposed budget has allocated $150,000 for the creation of a drug court. A drug court will allow some first time, non-violent drug offenders to avoid the criminal consequences of a drug conviction on the condition that they successfully complete a multi-pronged rehabilitation program to cure their drug addiction. With this needed funding, the Commonwealth will be able to take an important step forward in tackling substance abuse on the islands.

While additional personnel and funding will be needed to create a fully operational program, the Senate’s proposed budget is an excellent step in the right direction toward eliminating the scourge of drugs in the Commonwealth. It is the Judiciary’s hope that the House of Representatives agrees with the Senate to allocate adequate funds for the drug court.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, with the support and assistance of Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, is leading the Judiciary’s effort to create a drug court.

“The implementation of a drug court will allow the CNMI to join Guam and all 50 states in a collaborative effort to address the devastating effects of crime on our families and communities. Drug court is the only nationally-proven method to stop the revolving door of short-term crime sentences for drug-related crimes,” said Wiseman.

“These defendants desperately need specialized counseling and treatment—and only a drug court can provide them with the help they need,” he added. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

Legislature building still without power; House speaker seeks meeting with Inos

The Legislature building on Capital Hill has yet to have power, forcing lawmakers to hold their meetings and sessions in different locations.

The House of Representatives on Tuesday held a session at the Superior Court in Susupe, while the Senate held its latest session at the conference room of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

According to House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, he has already requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency and then-acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres to have a generator installed at the building.

“I made a verbal request to the FEMA and to the acting governor. I believe all requests must be made by governor to the FEMA,” he said.

However, the request was apparently denied.

“I heard that the request was sent but it was denied. Currently I have not gotten any feedback or a form of confirmation,” Deleon Guerrero said.

As of Wednesday, power is still out at the Legislature building.

“I will be talking to the governor about this,” Deleon Guerrero said, although he did not mention a specific date to meet Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Currently, the Executive Branch and Judiciary have power.

Power restoration

An update from FEMA said concrete poles are currently being installed around Saipan, in a joint mutual aid effort between the Guam Power Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The 90 concrete poles arrived on Saturday Aug. 22, and through today, most were installed throughout the island, including along the feeder to the airport. An additional 110 concrete poles are scheduled to be delivered within the next few days, which will continue to support the overall power authority restoration capabilities, FEMA said. FEMA also mission assigned power experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ 249th Prime Power Battalion Delta team to assist the CNMI in installing the hardwire and electrical wiring on the utility poles.

Neither FEMA nor CUC have given information as to when power will be fully restored. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Back to School SCHEDULES

Tinian Schools
Rota Schools
August 25, 2015

Middle Schools and High Schools on Saipan
September 8, 2015

Head Start and Elementary Schools on Saipan
September 14, 2015

Bus Schedules on Saipan:
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7:15 a.m. Middle School and High School

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Demapan backs NMI 'typhoon shelter' program

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) agrees it is high time for the CNMI government to look into a more reliable sheltering program.

Demapan said this is relevant in the wake of the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor, which left hundreds of residents homeless due to damaged houses.

"With weather experts forecasting one of the worst El Niño periods in recent years, more storms are expected to form in our region," Demapan said. "Typhoon Soudelor has exposed so many degrees of vulnerability in the Commonwealth and the adverse impacts on many of our residents is beyond measure."

The legislator said he is "pleased with recent reports from the Office of the Governor regarding discussions on building shelters in the villages so that families have a place to seek refuge during a storm."

He said he will recommend "a collective dialogue on how best we can mitigate this issue to prevent families from being separated or sustaining bodily injury during the passing of a major storm."

Demapan said it's important for the government to take a look at the issue from different perspectives.

"Gov. [Eloy S.] Inos has raised the idea of building shelters attached to people's homes either as a basement-type or above ground, but we should not rule out the possibility of building centralized shelter facilities in densely populated villages so that more residents can be accommodated in a timely and safer manner," he said.

Demapan said having "several centralized shelter facilities in crowded villages will greatly help residents to get to safer ground without having to take the risk of traveling far before, during, and after a storm."

These facilities "would also relieve the demands imposed on our public schools and their respective employees."

Inos earlier said he is looking into future plans, which will include "shelters" for houses in vulnerable communities that can withstand devastating typhoons such as Soudelor.

The "typhoon shelters" will be located near or inside people's homes, and aside from providing a "safe zone," will also have built-in water catchment tanks and will have—ideally—emergency rations. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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USDA RD offers housing loan moratorium to NMI homeowners

TIYAN, Guam—USDA Rural Development Hawaii State Director Chris Kanazawa recently announced that a moratorium of up to two years may be available to homeowners in the CNMI who have been affected by Typhoon Soudelor. To learn more about the moratorium program, call the Guam USDA Rural Development office at (671) 300-8562/65.

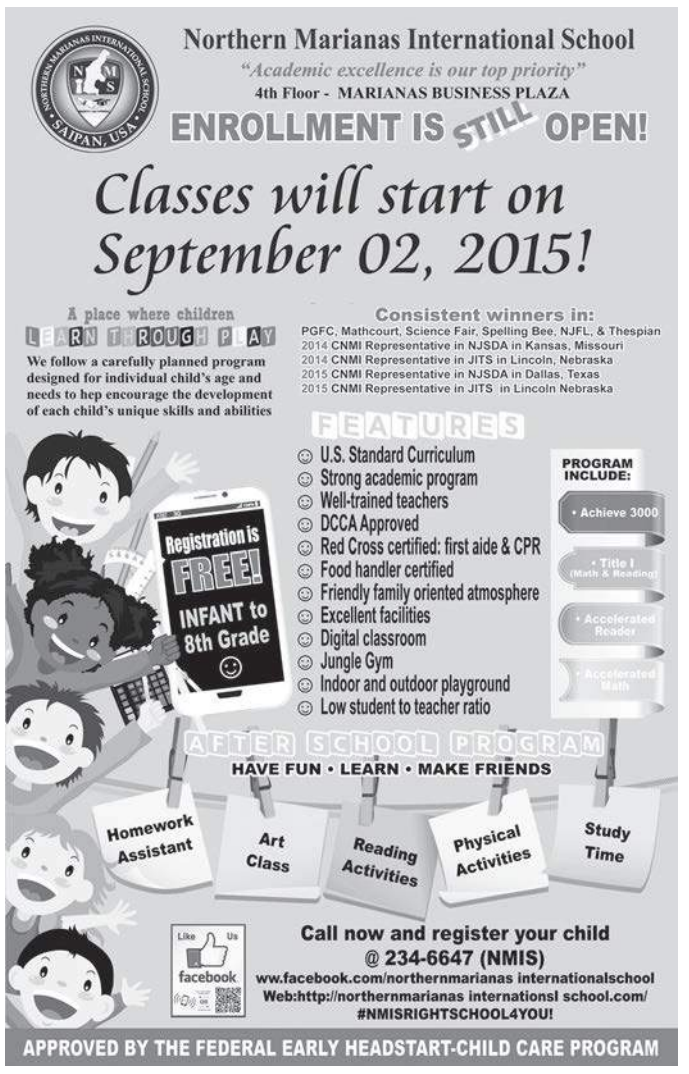
A moratorium allows USDA to suspend borrower payments for up to 24 months. USDA may consider a moratorium when an event is considered beyond the borrower's control and the reason is temporary in nature. The devastating impact that Typhoon Soudelor had on the CNMI and on the livelihood of individuals is an event that warrants a moratorium.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the residents of Saipan and the CNMI during these very challenging times," stated Kanazawa. "We want our homeowners to focus on recovering from this disaster and getting their lives back in order before they resume payments with USDA."

Moratoriums may be offered to homeowners whose accounts were in good standing prior to Typhoon Soudelor. USDA Rural Development officials plan to visit Saipan this month to meet with homeowners to discuss moratorium and other available servicing actions. ***(USDA RD)***

WATER FOR VILLAGES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, G Van Gils, Tao Xing of Best Sunshine International, Jenny Hegland of United 4 Saipan, Joan Cabrera, Viola Alepuyo of Best Sunshine International, and Nola Hix of Marianas Young Professionals pose with the bottles of water that will be delivered to villages.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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Katrina and the next crisis

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall over southern Louisiana, causing unprecedented destruction along the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans. Ten years later, what can we say we learned?

The Gulf Coast survived. New Orleans survived. Yet the scars run deep—not only for the million people who were displaced by the storm or the families of the 1,833 people who died, but for a nation still struggling with what Katrina says about all of us. About poverty. About our sense of place. About our relationship with nature. About so much more.

But what have we really learned about coping with massive emergencies?

In the practical sense, quite a bit. Disaster experts say the U.S. has made crucial progress in disaster readiness.

The Department of Homeland Security, created after 9/11 and tested by Katrina, has been refining its national disaster strategy over the years, and continues to do so as priorities and capabilities change. Its first version in 2004 focused heavily on terrorism and laid out a response plan that was too bureaucratic and cumbersome for Katrina. In 2008, the department scrapped the jargon and produced a clear, readable National Response Framework that includes lessons learned from Katrina and superstorm Sandy, which caused massive destruction along the East Coast in 2012. The current version drops the heavy emphasis on terrorism, addresses a broader range of likely disasters and incorporates the many community sectors beside the government that play a role in disaster response—from individuals and nonprofits to private businesses.

A year after Katrina, Congress amended the Stafford Act to address some of the bureaucratic confusion that had muddled the local, state and federal response at the time. The law, which pertains to how federal disaster aid is released to states, now makes it easier to access resources before an anticipated disaster strikes.

Despite all of this, it's impossible to create a one-plan-fits-all protocol for disaster management. So the challenge is for leaders at all levels to find new ways to coordinate their disaster plans—and to accept that climate change, a booming world population and other forces are causing more large-scale disasters.

"The world is a hell of a lot more complex than it used to be," says Thad Allen, the now-retired U.S. Coast Guard admiral who stepped in when FEMA Director Michael Brown was ousted shortly after Katrina hit. Allen advocates for a "unity of effort," which is that holistic community approach spelled out in the National Response Framework.

Allen is now a member of the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council and an executive at consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton. Allen spends most of his time consulting with local and national leaders from government, business and nonprofit sectors on how to strengthen their communities before the next big disaster hits.

This is what Allen and other disaster experts refer to as "resilience"—that squishy set of qualities that allows a person or community to bounce back. Think of it as the sociological equivalent of the human immune system. If all of our systems are healthy and working together, the theory goes, we'll be better able to survive and recover from whatever hits us. The concept has become so hot that, a few years after Katrina, Tulane University created the Disaster Resilience Leadership Acad-

See KATRINA on Next Page

I have a dream

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

MLK Jr. was actually diminutive in physique (an inch taller than I when we met). He was rotund and looked indolent but what he lacked in physical presence, he made up with the unmistakable aura of one who was «special.» That›s how we regard our «dreamers» and if Martin was anything, he was definitely a dreamer!

I was just 18 when his voice thundered in Abe Lincoln›s shadow down the reflecting pool of the National Mall. The year was ‹63, and I was a strapping lightweight radio announcer in northern Philippines sounding like I knew what I was talking about. I played the speech over and over again and the first LP album I bought when I reached stateside in ‹65 was called «In White America» that had the recording.

Two months after the speech, I announced the assassination of JFK, a young President in a motorcade downtown Dallas, Texas, where I later went to school. LBJ of Texas was next in command, later President just about the time I walked into a «for white only» washetaria sign near the Hilton on Central Expressway in Highland Park. The endowed Mustangs of Southern Methodist U and the Dallas Cowboys both played in the Cotton Ball.

Not a fan of LBJ as he launched an incomprehensible war in Southeast Asia›s Yue who lowered French pride a notch—Hanoi and Saigon were unfriendly to the gendarmes—while waging a war on poverty. When the Vietnam conflict flared up in ‹64, it was the year oil in the magnitude of Kuwait was confirmed in the South China Sea. We only connected the dots later. At the time, democracy vs. communism was the rhetoric, not the tar sheen that later made many rich in the Arabian peninsula.

MLK Jr. used the metaphor of a «dream,» inviting the whole country to dream with him. Not five years later, he himself bit the bullet at dusk when his voice was stilled on a Lorraine motel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee.

I bumped into the legendary civil rights activist before his April assassination, in February ‹68 in Washington, D.C. where he led a march against the War in Vietnam in preparation for the Poor People's March. By then, he had moved from civil rights to human rights, right down my alley.

This pintsize former DJ from northern Luzon, not yet 23, marched with a group from the New York Ave. and 13th St. Presbyterian Church where MLK spoke to a captive audience to lock arms with prominent figures through the front of the WH on Pennsylvania Avenue across the George Washington Bridge spanning the Potomac to Arlington, Virginia. The joint anti-war/civil rights group dramatized the practical ties between the resource-draining Vietnam War that divided the nation, and the War on Poverty that touched its compassion but was getting no financial support.

The most quoted part of MLK›s extempore is the fourth rhetorical line in the litany: *"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."* Liberation. Freedom. Justice. Peace. Dreamers in history march to the same coda.

The dreamer fascinates. Most are elevated into Olympus beyond the reach of mortals. Moses, the stammering leader of the Hebrews, led an exodus out of Egypt and became Cecille de Mille's Charlton Heston. Heroes fly into the pyramidal tip of superstardom. In my time, Jesus Christ Superstar parodies this phenomenon, but the Greeks earlier sent Jesus to replace Zeus and the Romans made him a transcendent Caesar in the cathedral!

Muslims do not idolize their prophet and *al-lah* means the "no thing"; Araby's movement is devoid of images of a person, but they made an icon of the Koran in the same way as the Jews now treat the Torah, emulated by Christians who tacked-in Paul's epistles and the Gospels to create the idolatry of Jesus under the architectonic magnificence of the medieval *ecclesia* and King James blessings of the *biblos* (the books, *aka*, the Bible).

We turned the diminutive figure of my brief acquaintance into a chiseled Georgia limestone. In MLK's time, psychological counseling was in vogue in the healing ministries. Depressed under duress became a stressful justification for MLK's slippage into the welcoming arms of ladies.

Prominent was Georgia Powers, the first black and female senator elected to the Kentucky Senate. She was MLK's year-old lover just before he died. Six-year senior to the civil rights activist, she provided him comfort on his last night at the Lorraine Motel where he was gunned down. In the Memphis dusk scene, she alighted to the ambulance that took Martin's body away but Jesse Jackson held her back.

Real heroes are like us, often politically incorrect. We join folks because they resemble our dreams rather than voice tone of authority. Even Ambrose Bennett has his bad hair days! My picture of MLK is earthy. He thundered into dreams, but like many of us, he drew up his pants one leg at a time. Fifty-years after MLK's dream, Obama edged home into the White House.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Batteries

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Batteries and flashlights; flashlights and batteries. Saipan's power grid woes make this topic timely.

When it comes to a weekend campout, even a lousy flashlight that you buy at the sari-sari store will probably get you by. But when power-out situations are chronic and not temporary, things become more demanding.

I'm not going to look at the whole gig today. Instead, I want to isolate just one small, and specific, part of the equation: the costs of battery power.

Specifically, the comparative costs of various sizes of alkaline batteries. I'm not talking about cost per battery. Any fool can see that at the checkout counter. No, I'm talking about the comparative costs, between battery sizes, of the electricity they hold. And I'm not addressing rechargeable batteries; that's a great subject that deserves a stand-alone article someday.

But today is about the normal, everyday batteries you see in the store all the time.

As we will see, bigger batteries are a lot cheaper than smaller ones in terms of the juice they provide. This is just one part of the overall equation when it comes to buying and using battery-powered devices, but it's still an important part. Well, it's important to me, anyway, since I don't like wasting money.

Anyway, here's some data about battery juice from a website called AllAboutBatteries.com. This is based on "long life" (I don't know the significance of that term) alkaline batteries. The bigger the number, the more juice the battery has:

- AAA-size: 1.41 Watt-hours.
- AA-size: 2.60 Watt-hours.
- C-size: 9.56 Watt-hours.
- D-size: 20.83 Watt-hours.

That's quite a large range. If you crunch the numbers, you'll see that a D-size battery holds about 15 times as much juice as the AAA-size does. Heck, the even the AA-size holds 84 percent more than the AAA-size.

As you'll notice at the store, there are, of course, different formulations of batteries, of which alkaline, and the far cheaper carbon-zinc, are common. For any of the sizes mentioned above, carbon-zinc has only about 25 percent of the juice of the alkaline, so I've never seen the attraction of taking the low road here. Costs notwithstanding, I don't want to change batteries at 3am when it's time to find the bathroom but the flashlight won't wake up.

Ah, costs. I've mentioned the raw amount of juice that the batteries provide. The next step is to consider battery prices so we can compare batteries between sizes. Battery costs are a big deal in my household. We do a lot of camping and traveling. We use a lot of batteries. Batteries are sufficiently expensive that they're on our household "think ahead" list for shopping.

Battery costs vary widely by store, so, instead of playing that game, I'll simply approach costs via a big-box retailer's website. That retailer is Costco (remember them?); they sell a lot of batteries, so they are a good baseline for broad data. I'm not saying that Costco prices apply to Saipan, but it's the comparative costs between battery sizes that I'm after. So I'll just make some ratios here, and I'll assume that they apply, more or less, to the world at large.

Using AAA-, AA-, and D-sized batteries from Duracell as a basis (I didn't see data for the C-sized), this fact is easy to see: The bigger the battery, the cheaper the juice.

Here are the ratios, based on blending Costco battery costs with AllAboutBatteries.com Watt-hours information:

- AAA-size: 6.7 times D-size cost per Watt-hour.
- AA-size: 2.8 times D-size cost per Watt-hour.
- C-size: No data.
- D-size: 1.0 times D-size costs per Watt-hour. (Well, duh.)

That's a dramatically wide range of costs between battery sizes, and this is amplified by the fact that the data at hand has an AAA-battery actually costing more than an AA-battery. Maybe the big-box, buy-in-volume situation skews things at this end of the market. But I won't worry about it, since the magnitude of differences is so large that splitting hairs won't change anything.

Anyway, we can see that the small profile of small batteries carries a hefty cost premium. Of course, in some cases, miniaturization is so important that it is worth the premium. For example, it's pretty hard to imagine a remote control powered by D-sized batteries.

On the other hand, I think that a lot of equipment on the market doesn't take into account the ultimate costs of the batteries that the user will have to bear. I keep this in mind when I'm shopping for battery-powered stuff, and that's pretty much the entire point of today's screed.

Your vision of the NMI?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

A young scholar and potential writer asked if I am optimistic of the future of the NMI? I replied affirmatively and confidently. He was taken aback in that my views, in his opinion, don't seem to support my answer. Well, they were observations, pure and simple in what's known as fair commentary. Nothing is etched in stone!

Be that as it may, we are both walking on the path of "political maturity"—a slow process that would take years to develop until we attain a sense of mature governance with appreciable contentment. The disorienting experience we're treading now is part and whole of the fallacies of a democracy. How quickly we develop good governance is in the palm of our hands. The process has begun. Therein lies my confidence.

Even our country, with over 200 years since it was founded, has yet to attain clarity and understanding upholding the concept of separation of powers. Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have taken the role of the U.S. Congress on policy decisions. Even President Obama attempts being a president and legislator at the same time. It's being meddlesome where it is constitutionally prohibited.

Here at home the origin of self-inflicted difficulties isn't trapped in the complexity of substantive issues. It is primarily one of percipiency—ability to understand what's at issue—on imperial Capital Hill. They know everything, especially "nothing!" And they smile nervously, sporting nervous arrogance as though a new fad.

The economy is headed deeper south yet we see policies in the prohibition of panty hanging in Garapan including a one-lane road. Do you now see the lack of depth on policymaking?

Though not a fiery proponent of tourism, Guam's thrives while ours dies, the former working out of a set of plans it refines as it moves along.

Vacillate: We vacillate on issues while inspecting if the cargo cult mentality would work. This specialty triggers incoherence. In brief, the right doesn't know what the left hand is doing. But we move along smiling while singing "Ke sera, sera". And we seem happy as though a special talent.

What do you think is the answer? It's a challenge in assessment and only you could pinpoint the flaws in our "ke sera" syndrome. I'm also ready to meet with you to challenge your considered vision of our future.

More so than anything, I now focus on returning NMI scholars to begin the long road to fostering meaningful self-government. I'm tickled to death with their proactivity, saying enough of this self-inflicted victimhood. They're on their way to forging brighter tomorrows. I hear the same thing from scholars off-island. They'd engage in "educated" discussion what paradigms are needed to set the course for some very difficult navigating up ahead.

If you will, a lot of bright young scholars are teeming with energy to eventually explode into the fold of leadership to make a difference. I'd roll out the red carpet and welcome them home for I've waited long and hard for their return.

With rock solid academic and professional credentials they'd navigate our canoes even with shredded sails, successfully. I see brighter days ahead. Join the chorus so we sing in unity and harmony.

The storm: Had to check out my friend Magoo to see if his tin shack survived the wrath of Soudelor. The entire shack was gone. He bounced right back and rebuilt it in two days.

He's an industrious person who doesn't wait around for Santa Claus. Later he harvested some root crops or taro and tapioca from his garden. He gave me some while I returned the favor with canned goods from home. The simple exchange is known as "communal sharing." It is the very fabric that has held us together for centuries.

This part of the local culture is still very strong. I don't see any flaws in it. It's the most Christian thing to do for friends in real need.

Volunteers: A volunteer, a college grad, smiles when assigned to clean gutters somewhere. "There goes my college diploma…came here to help people and they ask me to pick up trash." Why can't we put people where they could do the most good?

Why confuse bureaucracy and the needs of victims? I mean people need help not the gutters on road corners! The placement of the right people in the right positions is what good management is all about. But then how do we pound sense into incompetent political hires?

Thanks KKNP: On my way north some five hours before Goni made landfall between Tinian and Rota, Gary Sword hooked up with NOAA for the latest storm information. Thanks Gary. The information was most timely. Didn't have to brave listening to so-called "official" information from upstairs. You should continue the conversation with NOAA. It ensures timely information from the horse's mouth! Outstanding job!

Si Goni`: Just 13 days after Soudelor, Mr. Goni decided to make a visit himself. The upside is the cool weather he brought after days of scorching heat. But he also delayed work in the recovery effort.

Then there's Atsani churning steadily. Weather forecasters hope to see shear lines fizzle out so it moves and disappears up north. Another superstorm is a bit too much for our tiny little plates. Definitely, this is the strangest year for storms on the islands.

Last Sunday, Aug. 16, was the twelfth day the southern part of the island was shut-off from water. Do we keep singing *Twelve Days of Christmas* once more in August? The spin doctors on imperial Capital Hill who have a new skill—misinformation—are saying "We're doing everything that we can." Really? Nice try!

KATRINA

From Page 10

emy, which offers a master's degree combining instruction in public health, business, law, architecture and social work.

It's tempting to dismiss that idea of resilience as pop sociology, but we see merit in disciplined efforts to nurture it. To achieve "national resilience," as Allen and others emphasized, communities must acknowledge at least three major challenges: their aging infrastructure, the vulnerability of the poor, and environmental issues such as eroding coastlines and rumbling fault lines. Resilience won't stop a hurricane, but strengthening those three areas will put us in better shape to survive and recover from it.

Allen likes to talk about C.J. Huff, the now-retired superintendent of schools in Joplin, Mo., in 2011 when an EF5 tornado crushed the city, killed 161 people and destroyed half of its school buildings. In the years before the tornado, Huff had helped launch a successful program called Bright Futures that coordinated efforts by the school district, businesses, faith-based organizations and community members to help meet students' basic needs. Those same groups jumped in to help the schools rebuild afterward. As Allen says: "He built resilience without even realizing it."

But what about the less-practical lessons from Katrina? We're all still learning. About a week after the storm, then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., visited the region and later made this searing observation on the Senate floor:

"I hope we realize that the people of New Orleans weren't just abandoned during the hurricane. They were abandoned long ago to murder and mayhem in the streets, to substandard schools, to dilapidated housing, to inadequate health care, to a pervasive sense of hopelessness."

Those words echo today, and far beyond New Orleans. In Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit—every city where many citizens lack the mentors and means to build resilience—America is, yes, more ready to cope with sudden disasters. But we don't always deliver on those day-to-day imperatives that come between them: whether people are safe, whether their children have good schools, whether they sleep in decent dwellings, whether they have medical care. We have more to do.

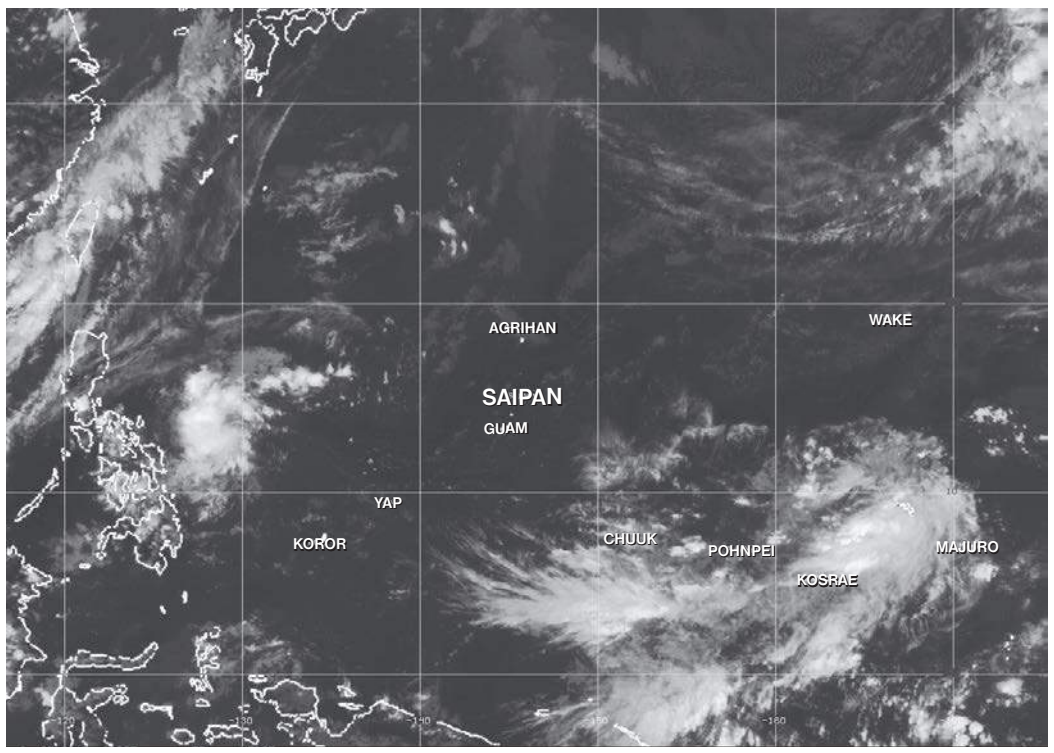
(c)2015 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny except isolated afternoon showers. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A small disturbance centered northwest of Koror at 12N131E is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of a line from 16N134E to 9N131E. Converging low-level southwest to west winds are coupling with divergent flow aloft to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in patchy areas across Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states to Kwajalein atoll and just west of Majuro mainly south of 11N from 147E to 171E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼67
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲88	▼77
London	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲94	▼71
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼43
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼66
Osaka	Sunny	▲92	▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Pusan	Sunny	▲85	▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼59
San Francisco	Sunny	▲80	▼63
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼64
Tokyo	Rain	▲82	▼71
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲84	▼65

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
8:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:09 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	6:02 PM	5:09 AM
Sunday	6:53 PM	6:11 AM
Monday	7:44 PM	7:12 AM
Tuesday	8:34 PM	8:13 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

What to expect after you register for FEMA disaster assistance

Over 7,500 registrations have been received by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster assistance as a result of damage sustained by Typhoon Soudelor and nearly $4.3 million has been approved for survivors so far. FEMA encourages all who have suffered damage from Typhoon Soudelor to register for disaster assistance.

Those who have suffered losses as a result of Typhoon Soudelor but have not yet applied for assistance are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Survivors can register by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for survivors with hearing disabilities. Online registration is also available 24/7 at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

A Disaster Recovery Center, at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe is open for assistance with the application process. Normal hours of operation are Mondays-Saturdays 8am to 5pm; Sundays 10am to 4pm. Completing and returning the loan application does not mean that you must accept the loan.

After registering for disaster assistance, applicants can expect to 1.) Have a housing inspection and then 2.) Receive an approval or denial notification.

Housing Inspections

Registered survivors will be contacted by a FEMA inspector to schedule an appointment for an inspection, so registrants do not need to contact FEMA to set up an inspection. The wait time for an inspection is approximately two weeks. The inspection is needed to verify and assess damage listed in your application. The inspection generally takes 30-40 minutes or less and consists of a general inspection of damaged areas of the home and a review of your records. *There is no fee for the inspection.*

When a FEMA housing inspector comes to visit your home, be sure they show you proper identification. *All FEMA inspectors have prominent photo ID badges*. If you are not shown photo identification, then *do not* allow the inspection. Unfortunately, disasters often bring out criminals who prey on the needs of disaster survivors—so beware of scams and scam artists.

When a FEMA Housing Inspector visits your home, someone 18 years of age or older who lived in the household prior to the disaster must be present for the scheduled appointment. The inspector will ask to see:

■ Photo identification.

■ Proof of ownership/occupancy of damaged residence (structural insurance, tax bill, mortgage payment book/utility bill).

■ Insurance documents: home and/or auto (structural insurance/auto declaration sheet).

■ List of household occupants living in residence at time of disaster.

■ All disaster-related damages to both real and personal property.

If you are unable to provide traditional proof of ownership/occupancy (such as tax bill, mortgage payment books, deed, title, insurance), you can get a signed letter by a local precinct representative to validate the physical location of a home/dwelling (a P.O. Box address is not sufficient). Letters can be picked up at the fire stations in Kagman, Garapan, Susupe, or Koblerville

Once filled out, take the form to your local fire station. They will provide you with a contact number to reach your local precinct representative to validate.

If you have been displaced and need transportation to and from the housing inspection, you can contact the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at (670) 237-8000 to schedule transportation.

Approval or Denial Notification Letters

Once the inspection process is complete, your case will be reviewed by FEMA and you will receive a letter or email outlining the decision about your claim.

If you qualify for a FEMA grant, FEMA will send you a check by mail or deposit it directly into your bank account. You will also receive a letter describing how you are to use the money. You should only use the money given to you as explained in the letter and save receipts on how you spent the money.

If you do not qualify for a FEMA grant, you will receive a letter explaining why you were turned down and will be given a chance to appeal the decision*. Your appeal rights will be described in this letter. Appeals must be in writing and mailed within 60 days of FEMA's decision.

If you're referred to the Small Business Administration, you will receive a SBA application. The application must be completed and returned in order to be considered for a loan or for additional FEMA grant assistance. SBA representatives are available to help you with the application at local Disaster Recovery Center.

*An appeal is a written request to review your file again with additional information you provide that may affect the decision. You may appeal any decision provided by FEMA regarding your Individual Assistance.

Appeals may relate to your initial eligibility decisions, the amount or type of assistance provided to you, late applications, requests to return money, or a denial of Continued Temporary Housing Assistance. Prior to requesting an appeal review, you should review your file with a FEMA helpline agent at 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA), or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585, or request a copy of your file from FEMA so you can understand why you received the decision you want to appeal.

To appeal the decision:

■ Explain in writing why you think the decision about the amount or type of assistance you received is not correct. You, or someone who represents you or your household, should sign the letter and have it notarized. If the person writing the letter is not a member of your household, there must be a signed statement saying that that person may act for you.

■ Include the FEMA registration number and disaster number (shown at the top of your decision letter) in your letter of appeal. You should also include the last four digits of your social security number, your full name, your address, and your date and place of birth.

■ You may also want to include a copy of a government-issued identification card or include the following statement "I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct".

■ If you have supporting documentation for your appeal, include that in your correspondence to FEMA.

■ Mail your appeal letter to:

FEMA-Individuals & Households Program National Processing Service Center P.O. Box 10055 Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

or you can fax you appeal letter to:

(800) 827-8112 Attention: FEMA - Individuals & Households Program.

IMPORTANT: To be considered, your appeal letter must be postmarked within 60 days of the date of the decision letter's date. Remember to date your letters.

■ All appeals are reviewed.

■ Decisions usually are made within 30 days of receiving the request.

■ Additional information may be requested from you if FEMA does not have enough information to make a decision.

You will be notified by mail of the response to your appeal. ***(FEMA)***

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Hormel donates $38,000 worth of luncheon meat

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and D&Q resident manager Max Kretzers, together with TSL Foundation's Merlie Tolentino, Tan Holdings VP Alex Sablan, and D&Q staff, are joined by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, members of the CNMI Legislature, and several of the governor's office team on Wednesday during the announcement of Hormel Foods's donation of 10 pallets of Black Label Luncheon Loaf to assist the people of Saipan recover from the effects of Typhoon Soudleor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Through their regional distributor, D&Q Saipan, Hormel Foods is generously donating 10 pallets of Black Label Luncheon Loaf to assist the people of Saipan recover from the effects of Typhoon Soudleor.

This donation has a retail value of $38,000 and consists of 20,160 cans. D&Q will meet the expenses for the shipment—shipping, taxes, port handling, trucking fees, etc., estimated at an additional $3,000.

The distribution was announced Wednesday to Gov. Eloy S. Inos by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and D&Q resident manager Max Kretzers.

Also present were members of the CNMI Legislature and several of the governor's office team.

Kretzers said the shipment was slightly delayed due to shipping issues but should arrive this weekend. ***(D&Q)***

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort extends a helping hand

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's chainsaw crew. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- 1,000 gallons of drinking water to be provided free
- Green fees to be donated to charity
- Offers free chainsaw services

Since Typhoon Soudelor, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort has devoted its resources to helping the community, including working in conjunction with DEQ to provide non-potable water to residents and by providing shelter for 17 of its employees and their families who were left homeless by the typhoon. The resort also performed free chainsaw services over the past couple of weekends and was able to help many residents clear their yards of downed trees. We are willing to extend our chainsaw services upon request.

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is pleased to announce that beginning Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9am to 4pm, and until further notice, it will be providing 1,000 gallons of potable water daily to residents. Limit is one 5-gallon container per vehicle. Residents must provide their own sanitized water bottles.

Due to the overwhelming desire of our valued golfers to contribute toward assisting victims of Typhoon Soudelor, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort announces that for the month of September, $5 collected from player's green fees will be given to charity. Donations from non-golfers are also welcome and may be placed in the donation jars located at the front desk and at The Grill counter. LLBG&R will gladly issue receipts for these donations.

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is committed to helping our community, and we will continue to find ways to contribute to the community during this difficult time.

LLBG&R gladly announces that it has re-opened its 36-hole golf course. The Grill restaurant is open from 6:30am to 9pm daily, and will host a Sunday Brunch this Sunday. The swimming pool is also open daily from 11am-8pm. Call 236-8888 for more details. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-007-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Solid Waste Collection Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The successful bidder will be awarded 2 years to perform the services with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of the CPA.

The bid package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor at the Arrival Building beginning July 28, 2015. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for the Solid Waste Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, project No. CPA-IFB-007-15". One original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Departure Terminal Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00am, August 20, 2015 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of bidder's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure a contract for services.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/
MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: 22, July 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE

(SBA LOAN APPLICATION)

RadioCom is pleased to inform the general public and especially those who are planning to construct, reconstruct and repair their home or businesses after the devastation of Super Typhoon Soudelor that we are ready to serve you as your primary construction contractor.

RadioCom is a licensed general contractor in the CNMI and listed on Fedbiz.Gov as an **approved federal contractor**.

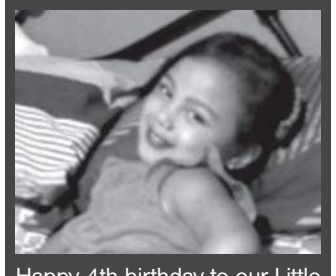
For those who are planning to avail of the Small Business Administration (SBA) loan, RadioCom will provide the following services:

1. A cost estimate for construction, reconstruction and repair of existing or new homes and businesses.
2. An approved construction plan including proposed blue print (architectural, structural and electrical plan)
3. A turned key construction of home repairs and businesses at a competitive price.

Contact us today so we can schedule a meeting, to identify your needs and assessment of your project. You may call Glenn H. Manglona at 287-4536 email at gmanglona@gmail.com or Leo Ganacias at 234-2262.

RadioCom is a subsidiary company of L.P. Ganacias Ent. Co. with offices in Guam, Philippines, CNMI and FSM. Our office is located at 1st Floor, Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. Contact us today, you'll be glad you did!

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 4th birthday to our Little Diva, Caydince Raine! Continue to grow with beauty and love. We love you oh so very much! Greetings come from Mommy and your Masga family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday going out to our uncle, Ryan Kaipat! We love you and please take care. Many more blessings to come. Enjoy your day! Greetings come from your niece and family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Judiciary awarded $54K grants

Joseph M. Diego, the USDA Area II director from Guam, recently announced the award of two grants to the CNMI Judiciary. The larger of the two grant awards, an Economic Impact Grant for $34,000, will purchase and retrofit a four-wheel drive vehicle for the Judiciary Marshal Service Division. The Marshal's Division will use the vehicle in its service of jury summons and warrants and in the transport of detainees and arrestees pursuant to its statutory duties.

The second grant, a Community Facilities Grant for $20,000, will enable the busy Superior Court's Clerk of Court's Office to purchase new computer workstations and a database server replacing obsolete technology. Patrick V. Diaz, Superior Court Clerk of Court said, "The new equipment will provide the staff of the Clerk's Office with the tools to operate more efficiently in the timely provision of service to the public."

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, who chairs the Judiciary Grants Committee, said, "Obtaining these grant awards provides us all with a good deal of satisfaction. The writing and submission of the requests was an involved task; we certainly appreciate the help of Joseph Diego, Area II Director, and Anthony Barcinas, business/community program specialist of the USDA Guam office. The grant awards will make a significant difference in how the Marshal Service Division and the Superior Court's Clerk of Court's office are able to perform their important duties for the community."

Diego

Kim-Tenorio

Judiciary Law Enforcement and Security director Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan added, "The Marshal Service Division and the Office of Adult Probation have a shared law enforcement obligation along with other CNMI law enforcement agencies to the public. …This award is responsive to safety-based practices. It enhances officer safety for the marshals and the Bench Warrant Task Force team when in the field and in the transport of detainees. It enhances the safety of detainees, as well as the community at large. Thank you USDA!" ***(NMI Judiciary)***

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WHISPERING PALMS SCHOOL
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OPEN ENROLLMENT:

The new school year started on August 17 and we are currently accepting new students. We have openings in our 1st/2nd and 7th/8th grades classes. Limited space is still available in grades 3, 4, and 6. W.P.S. has small classes with an average of fewer than 18 students per class.

Experienced Staff:

PRINCIPAL/TEACHER:

Jenny Slack, Started at Whispering Palms in 1999,
Masters in Teaching from the Evergreen State College

TEACHERS:

Kristy Beling, Entering fourth year of teaching at Whispering Palms,
Masters of Elementary Education from Winona State University

Nick Brennfleck, Twelfth year teaching,
Masters of Teaching from George Mason

Ron Wright, Four years of teaching experience;
Masters in Elementary Education from Oregon State University

Jane Stewart, Four years of teaching experience;
California clear credential earned through the University of Redlands.

Learning about Sea Turtles at Managaha

W.P.S. participates in M.I.S.O. and Private School sports

Tennis Professional Jeff Race teaches our physical education classes

Whispering Palms School is part of the Coalition of Private Schools

Special Activities:

Managaha • Artists' and Authors' Night • Plays and Musicals • Halloween and Holiday Activities

Specialty classes:

Physical Education with Coach Jeff Race, a professional tennis player;

Fine Arts with Nadia Richards, degree in Art and Design, studied Art History at Brigham Young University, taught at Summer Camps, private classes, and various projects for businesses.

W.P.S. has an educational campout every February on Managaha Island

W.P.S. students participate in plays, musicals, and an end-of-the-year Artists' and Authors' Night.

Here are some of the Colleges and Universities Whispering Palms School students have attended:

Harvard University, Stanford University, Brown University, West Point, United States Naval Academy, University of California, University of Hawaii, Whitman College, Mount Holyoke College, Boise State University, EcoleHoteliere de Lausanne, Fashion Institute of Technology, Knox University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount, Santa Clara, Savannah College of Art & Design and Ewhae Women's College

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Marpac, Ambros donate $10K for Saipan relief effort

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HAGATNA, Guam—On Sunday, Aug. 2, Typhoon Soudelor devastated the CNMI, causing severe damage to homes and businesses. Residents are currently without power and water, and are also experiencing a shortage of food and fuel.

In an effort to assist those affected by Typhoon Soudelor, Marpac Inc. and Ambros, Inc. (Guam) will be donating $10,000 to American Red Cross.

Ambros, Inc. general manager Tom Shimizu explained, "Our friends, family and neighbors in the CNMI need our help. As a family-owned company rooted deep within the community, we had to act. These donated funds will be used to provide urgently needed supplies."

Ambros Inc. is located in Guam; Marpac Distributors is located on Saipan; Shimbros International is located in Palau; and Sopac Distributors is located in American Samoa. ***(Ambros)***

From left, American Red Cross NMI Chapter chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, ARC vice chair Rick Lee, ARC executive director John Hirsh, Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney, and ARC Emergency Services director Paul Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Raise the Roof' reaches out to CNMI's business leaders

The "Raise the Roof" fundraising event is a unique campaign that seeks the help of influential business leaders to tap into their network of contacts and make pledges to assist charitable organizations active in the Typhoon Soudelor recovery efforts.

The fundraising event has been organized to benefit three charitable organizations working hard to address the needs of Saipan survivors. They are the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the American Red Cross, and United 4 Saipan.

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation was founded with the vision to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, fund programs focused on promoting literacy, and establish other initiatives that would directly benefit the general public. With the recent disaster that has impacted every person on Saipan, Diann Torres and volunteers of her foundation have been working hard in doing outreach. In line with the theme "Raise the Roof," the foundation's prospective aim is to use part of the proceeds to distribute tin and lumber to the thousands of homes affected by Soudelor and also address other disaster needs of our people.

The Red Cross continues to provide emergency relief for the people of the CNMI struggling to recover from two of the most destructive storms to impact the Northern Mariana Islands in the past 30 years. Typhoon Soudelor and Tropical Storm Goni affected nearly 2,800 homes with more than 1,000 that were destroyed or suffered major damage.

"The Red Cross response began immediately, thanks to our local office on Saipan and a group of dedicated local volunteers," Red Cross executive director John Hirsh stated. "Currently, a team of nearly 200 Red Crossers are working around the clock to provide support with sheltering, feeding, logistics and damage assessments, client casework, health services, bulk supplies and financial assistance to those most in need. The Red Cross will be there in the weeks and months ahead to help families and individuals throughout the Mariana Islands chain rebuild and recover."

The United 4 Saipan group, working in partnership with Marianas Young Professionals, is a grassroots volunteer group providing access to water, food, and essential necessities for people impacted by Soudelor. According to one of the key volunteers of the group, "all of our funds are used to enable the distribution of relief directly into villages, with the goal of reaching those in the most remote areas or with the least access to transportation and other resources. While our immediate goal is to help minimize the suffering caused by this natural disaster, we will continue to adapt our work in alignment with community-wide coordination and priorities established through the Long-Term Recovery Committee."

The "Raise the Roof" Saipan fundraising event is "not your typical fundraiser, because its goal is to reach out to and invite influential individuals (rather than companies) to reach out to their contacts to make the pledges," an event committee member said.

The goal is to reach out to business and corporate leaders, who in turn, can use their network of contacts to make the pledges and hopefully raise a significant amount of funding for the three recipient charitable organizations.

The funds raised will not be used to pay for any expenses incurred by putting the event together; instead, 100 percent of the funds raised will be used to directly benefit the three recipient organizations and complement their resources—such as water, food and hygiene necessities—for our people that they serve.

"Raise the Roof" is not selling tickets to raise funds. It aims to bring key business leaders, government officials, the charities and their volunteers together in one day "to remind each other of the strength that we have as a community of champions especially as we move forward in rebuilding and recovering our beautiful island of Saipan."

The event's invitees are exclusive and will take place on Sept. 3, from 6pm to 10pm, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"We're all in this together and I ask you to use your personal networks and influence in 'raising the roof' in what we as business leaders can collectively do for the people of this very special place, for those who are displaced, homeless and still in despair, and also to the many hardworking government, private and charitable organizations who are working as one strong community to rebuild and recover the island of Saipan," said Dr. Bo, the Skywalker Communications Group managing director.

"For that, I plead with you to join me 'Raise the Roof' and make a personal pledge to support the unsung heroes on the ground—the charitable organizations and groups that continue to tirelessly and selflessly stand in the frontlines to give help wherever and whenever help is needed."

"Please take the pledge today! Call 20 or more of your contacts to donate what they can to help our local charities that are on the ground everyday and who are still serving the thousands of Typhoon Soudelor survivors in Saipan."

Dr. Bo also said Skywalker is committed to this effort, is committed to this community and for that, his company has pledged to shoulder all the expenses in putting this effort together in order for 100 percent of the funds raised to reach the charitable organizations and the people of Saipan. Dr. Bo is also one of the first business leaders to make a personal pledge to "Raise the Roof."

To make a pledge or learn more, email RaiseTheRoofSaipan@gmail.com or contact 484-6976. You can also find the local cause on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. ***(Skywalker Communications)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-021

Typhoon Soudelor Disaster Recovery Project - "Engineering Consultant Services"

The Office of the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Expedited Request for Proposals (CUC-RFP-15-021) for *Engineering Consultant Services for conducting Engineering Assessment and Provision of Repair Plans and Procedures for three (3) Power Plant Facilities Projects on Saipan: Power Plant 1, Power Plant 2, and Power Plant 4.*

As this project is time sensitive, with critical effects on the economy, health and life of the island of Saipan's residents and its business community, the CUC reserves the option of:

1. Awarding only one power plant project to a single consulting firm
2. Awarding more than one power plant project to one consultant in order to ensure the various projects are adequately executed both simultaneously and expeditiously.

These options allow the CUC an opportunity to select more than one proposer, if that decision serves the best interest of CUC, at any given time, depending on this RFP's response.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 PM (ChST), Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays, **until September 17, 2015**.

One (1) original and five (5) copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"(CUC-RFP-15-021)** for ***"Engineering Consultant Services""*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than September 30, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered. CUC reserves the right to reject any proposal received after the deadline. Proposals shall be evaluated as per the evaluation criteria specified in the RFP. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be conducted at the Power Plant I Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 10, 2015 at 10:30 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visits to Power Plant 1, Power Plant 2, and Power Plant 4 facilities will be arranged. Proposers should familiarize themselves with the site conditions at each facility so all sites can be evaluated properly.

Contract(s) will be awarded to the firm(s) submitting the most responsive proposal(s), and who is/are determined by CUC to be best qualified firm(s) to successfully perform the work, and to meet all other requirements thereof. CUC reserves the rights, nevertheless, to accept a proposal other than the lowest, if it determines that CUC's interest will be best served by doing so, or to reject any and all proposals or parts of proposals received.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Unbowed typhoon victim helps out at Red Cross

Larry Naputi isn't a typical American Red Cross volunteer.

The organization has many loyal and dedicated volunteers to help with disaster relief efforts, but most aren't trying to recover from a devastating disaster themselves. When Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan on Aug. 2, Naputi's home was completely destroyed.

"My house flew away. I've been devastated," Naputi said.

A few days after the storm passed Naputi decided he needed to help his community and began volunteering with the Red Cross.

"I feel like I'm helping people. This isn't about me; this is about the people and the Red Cross is really helping."

Since the storm hit, Naputi has been working long hours at the Red Cross office nearly every day unloading and loading relief supplies.

"People with a heart like Larry's will help Saipan fully recover," said John Hirsh, executive director of the Red Cross Northern Mariana Islands Chapter. "We sincerely appreciate his hard work during this difficult time in his own life."

Through Aug. 26, the Red Cross has served almost 7,500 people by providing nearly 30,000 meals and snacks, more than 1,900 cleanup kits, and more than 75,000 bulk items such as food, water, soap, and toilet paper. Those in need also receive emotional support and health services.

In some situations, the Red Cross may provide direct financial support to people who need extra help. In fact, the Red Cross has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial assistance to nearly 2,000 families.

The community can help by donating to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting redcross.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS. Donors can also make a donation specifically to the American Red Cross Northern Marianas Islands Chapter by emailing nmichapter@redcross.org. ***(ARC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Larry Naputi , whose house was completely destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor, is an active American Red Cross volunteer.

MCS is all set to open on Monday

Mount Carmel School is all set to start the 2015-2016 school year on Monday, Aug. 31. With the procurement of industrial strength generators and the resumption of CUC's rationed water services, classes will run with limited air-conditioning and fully operational restrooms.

For the past four weeks since Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan, the school has been working around the clock to repair damage, clean up debris, and prepare classrooms for the start of the school year.

"It's been challenging, but our school family has really come together to make sure we are ready for the start of the school year," said school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "While air-conditioning will be used on a staggered schedule to conserve fuel usage, we want to assure parents and families that students will have a comfortable environment conducive to learning."

The school will hold its annual Parent Orientation and Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 5pm to 7pm.

New 'Knight Care' program

Aware of the power and water situation that many families are struggling with, the school announced a new extended care program that will provide a comfortable environment for students to study and do homework. Since the program would run on weeknights from school dismissal until 8pm, it is being dubbed "Knight Care" after the school's mascot. Knight Care will be housed in the Blessed Mother Margarita Maria Maturana building and will give participating students teacher-supervised access to an air-conditioned room, working restrooms, Internet access, and teacher guidance and tutoring as needed. The school's nighttime security services will also help ensure the safety of all participating students.

Registration for Knight Care will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 1, and will run from Monday, Sept. 7, until power and water are fully restored on island. Knight Care rates are $75 per week or $20 per night per student.

Campus cleanup

As the school readies for the start of the school year, it is inviting Knights, AlumKnights, parents, and school supporters to its campus cleanup tomorrow, Saturday, Aug. 29, from 8am to 12pm. In particular, the school is in need of trucks to help haul away typhoon debris.

Uniform update

The school reminds students and parents that, as this is a transition year for school uniforms, both the old and the new uniforms will be allowed. Thus, if parents already have the old uniforms, students will still be permitted to wear those uniforms.

Parents should be advised that the school will not maintain an inventory of the khaki pants, shorts, and skorts. The transition to the new uniforms, particularly the khaki pants, shorts, and/or skorts, is partly intended to make it easier for parents to acquire such items on their own through retail outlets of their choice, and not to be limited to the uniform inventory of the school. This will also help keep the school's operating expenses low by preventing the school from stocking up on uniform inventory that often goes unsold.

Lastly, the school reminds all parents that due to Soudelor's impact on power and water, especially on laundry services, the school will excuse students from wearing full uniform until power and water are fully restored. In particular, students are encouraged to wear PE uniform instead of the full uniform.

For any more questions about uniform or any other matters, contact the school at 234-6184 or visit the school's website at mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(MCS)***

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

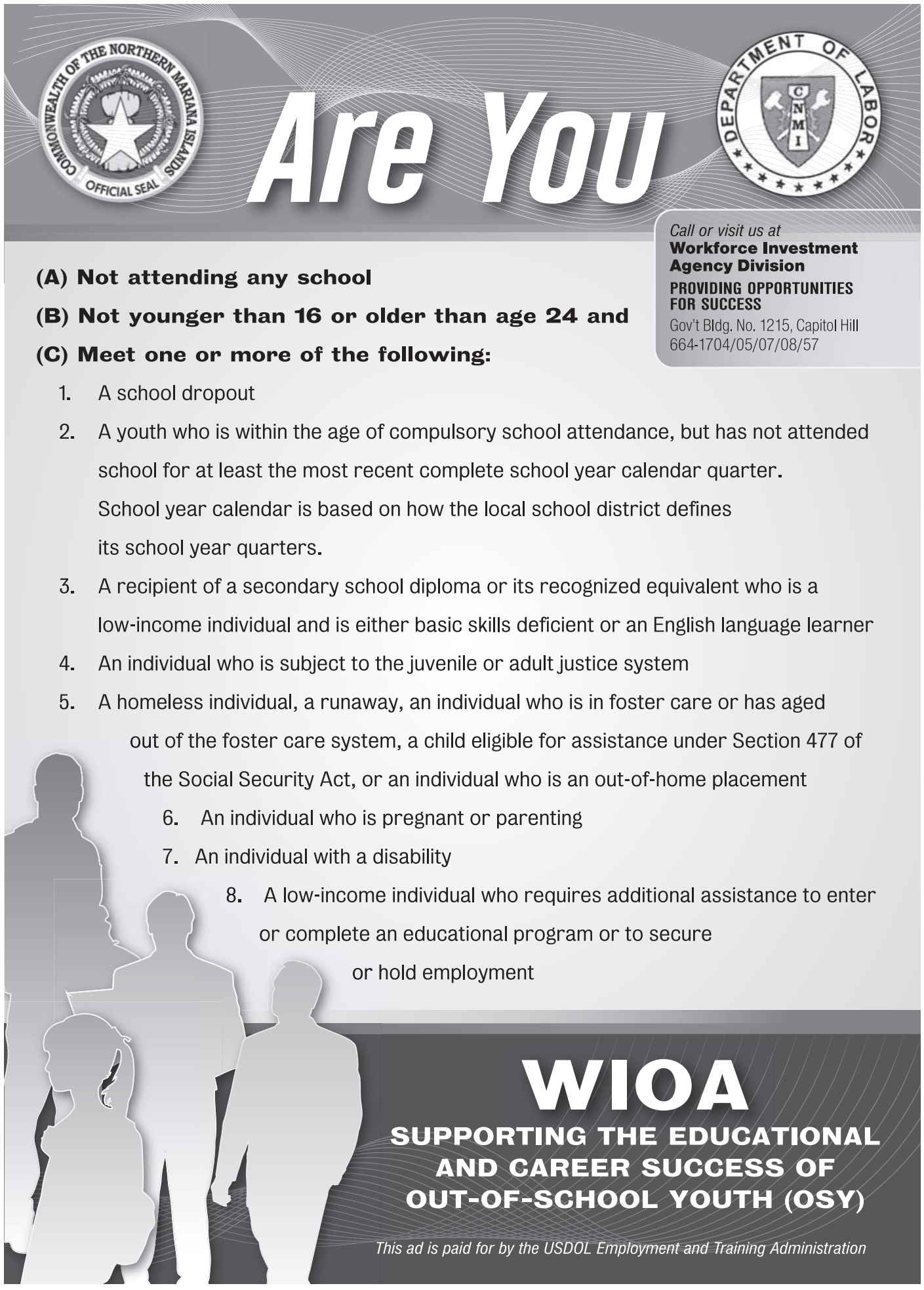
The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 30 from 10am to 5pm
- Aug. 31-Sept. 1 from 8am to 4pm
- Sept. 4 from 10:30am to 4:30pm
- Sept. 5 from 10am to 5pm

Training will also be conducted at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 30 from 10am to 5pm
- Aug. 31-Sept. 3 from 10:30am to 8:30pm
- Sept. 4 from 10:30am to 4:30pm
- Sept. 5 from 10am to 5pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***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(B) Not younger than 16 or older than age 24 and
(C) Meet one or more of the following:
1. A school dropout
2. A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter. School year calendar is based on how the local school district defines its school year quarters.
3. A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner
4. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
5. A homeless individual, a runaway, an individual who is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or an individual who is an out-of-home placement
6. An individual who is pregnant or parenting
7. An individual with a disability
8. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment
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Nation

Fired reporter kills 2 former co-workers on live TV

MONETA, Va. (AP)—He planned it all so carefully—a choreographed execution of two former colleagues, broadcast live to a horrified television audience. Hours later, he shared his own recording of the killing worldwide on social media.

Vester Lee Flanagan's video shows him approaching WDBJ reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward, gun in hand, as they conduct an interview. He points the gun at Parker and then at Ward, but he waits patiently to shoot until he knows that Parker is on camera, so she will be gunned down on air.

TV viewers heard about the first eight of 15 shots. They saw Parker scream and run, and heard her crying "Oh my God!" as she fell. Ward fell, too, and the camera he had been holding on his shoulder captured a fleeting image of the suspect holding a handgun.

That man, authorities said, was Flanagan—a former staffer who used the on-air name of Bryce Williams and was fired by WDBJ, a man who always was looking for reasons to take offense, colleagues recalled. He fled the scene but then posted his own 56-second video of the murders on Twitter and Facebook. He later ran off a highway while being pursued hundreds of miles away and was captured; he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

AP

This undated photograph made available by WDBJ-TV shows reporter Alison Parker, left, and cameraman Adam Ward. Parker and Ward were fatally shot during an on-air interview, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015, in Moneta, Va.

Wednesday's on-air murders reverberated far from central Virginia because that's just what the killer wanted—not just to avenge perceived wrongs, but to gain maximum, viral exposure. He used his insider's knowledge of TV journalism against his victims—a 24-year-old reporter who was a rising star and a 27-year-old cameraman engaged to a producer who watched the slaughter live from the control room.

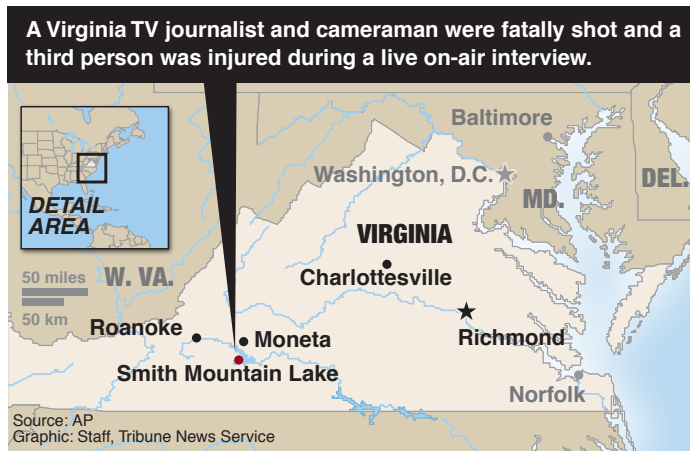
Flanagan's planning may have started weeks ago when, ABC News said, a man claiming to be Bryce Williams called repeatedly, saying he wanted to pitch a story and needed fax information. He sent ABC's newsroom a 23-page fax two hours after the 6:45 a.m. shooting that was part-manifesto, part-suicide note—calling himself a gay black man who had been mistreated by people of all races, and saying he bought the gun two days after nine black people were killed in a June 17 shooting at a Charleston church. The fax also included admiration for the gunmen in mass killings at places like Virginia Tech and Columbine High School in Colorado.

He described himself as a "human powder keg," that was "just waiting to go BOOM!!!!"

Parker and Ward were a regular team, providing stories for the station's "Mornin'" show on everything from breaking news to feature stories on subjects like child abuse. Their live spot Wednesday was nothing out of the ordinary: They were interviewing a local official at an outdoor shopping mall for a tourism story before the shots rang out.

As Parker screamed and Ward collapsed, Ward's camera kept rolling, capturing the image of the suspect pointing the gun. WDBJ quickly switched to the anchor back at the station, clearly shocked, who told viewers, "OK, not sure what happened there."

Parker and Ward died at the scene. Their interview subject, Vicki Gardner, also was shot, but emerged from surgery later Wednesday in stable condition.



TV station balances grief, journalism after on-air shooting

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Alison Parker and Adam Ward's colleagues at TV station WDBJ saved their tears for off the air.

The news became personal for the CBS affiliate in Virginia when reporter Parker and cameraman Ward were fatally shot during a live broadcast Wednesday, forcing co-workers to balance the stunning tragedy with professionalism.

Their grief was evident during the newscasts that followed, but so was their restraint.

"This is a hard day for all of us here at WDBJ7. We are mourning Alison and Adam, but it is our job to find the facts," anchorwoman Melissa Ganoa said during the 5 p.m. EDT newscast, less than 12 hours after the shooting by a fired station employee, Vester Flanagan, who died later of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

What unfolded was familiar to any TV viewer: A recounting of the crime; news conferences with updates from authorities, and reaction from those who knew the victims. A third person, a local chamber of commerce executive who was being interviewed by Parker, was shot and wounded.

The station in Virginia's Roanoke-Lynchburg media market, however, left it other outlets to dwell on the footage from WDBJ's unwitting broadcast of the shooting and, in a bleakly modern twist, apparent "selfie" video posted online by the alleged gunman.

An estimated 40,000 viewers saw it unfold live, untold numbers watched it afterward. The station received calls for interview requests from media outlets in Russia and Australia, among others.

"We are choosing not to run the video of that (the shooting) right now because, frankly, we don't need to see it again. And our staff doesn't need to see it again," Jeffrey Marks, WDBJ's president and general manager, said on air soon afterward. "But we will do full reporting on it later. Our teams are working on it right now, through the tears."

Fire crews battle smoky conditions, flames in WA

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Smoke from big wildfires burning east of the Cascade Range hurt air quality Wednesday and hampered efforts by crews battling the flames in Washington state.

Smoky conditions grounded helicopters and airplanes that had been fighting the fires, and air quality was rated as unhealthy for some people in Spokane County, which has nearly 500,000 residents.

Crews battling a 262-square mile blaze near the town of Republic were also battling smoke as well as flames, fire spokesman Donnie Davis said.

"Everybody up here is rubbing their eyes," Davis said. "It's brutal."

Davis said the cause of the fire remained under investigation.

A wildfire in Okanogan—the largest blaze ever recorded in the state—grew to nearly 438 square miles and heavy smoke also grounded air resources, fire spokesman Rick Isaacson said.

"We're still socked in," Isaacson said. "There's maybe one mile of visibility."

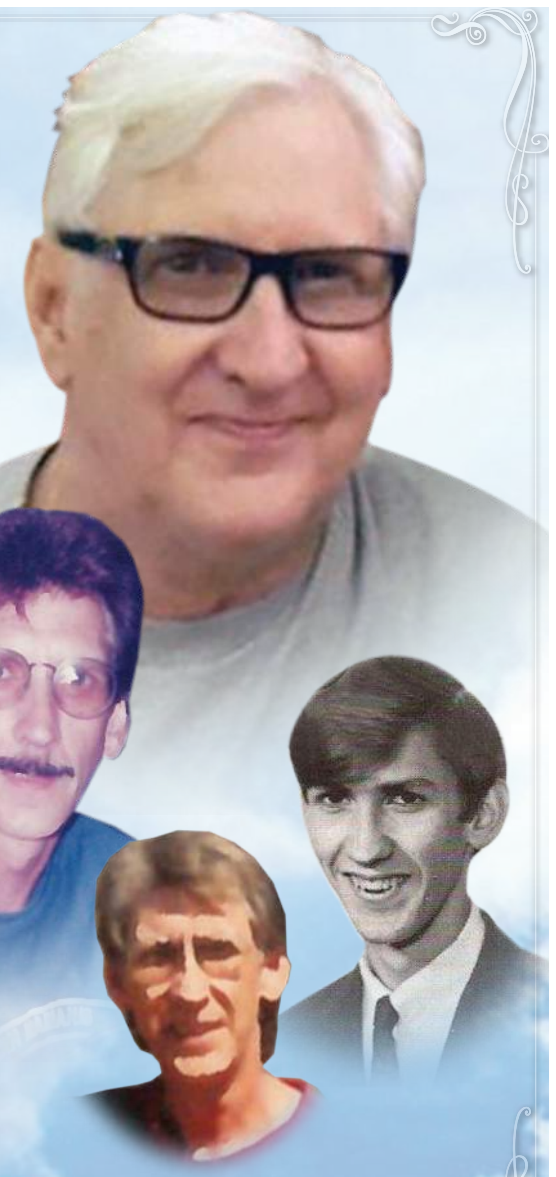
So far, officials have counted 40 homes and 40 outbuildings destroyed by the blaze, Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said. The fire is about 17 percent contained by more than 1,300 firefighters.

Rogers said a forecast calling for highs in the 70s and rain in the next few days was good news.

In loving memory of

†*Perry Steven Jeter*

Sept. 9, 1948-Aug. 21, 2015



In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: †Nelwyn Jeter
Sister: †Leona Jeter
Friend: †Ricky Allbritton

His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Jocelyn Suarez Jeter
Children: Stevie Jocelyn, Newlyn Victoria, Emelyn Joy, Rovil Florencio
Father: Felton Jeter
Mother: Joyce Jeter
Sisters-in-law: Maria Veronica B. Suarez and family
Irene B. Suarez and family
Buenavic B. Suarez
Mother in Law: Victoria B. Suarez
Friends: Cathy Smith Williams and family
Andre Derr and family
Michael V. Poole
Celeste Hackett and family
Michael Lanscaster and family
Billie Powell and family
Susan Stewart Byrd and family
Mickie Humphries and family
Colleagues: LaSalle Parish, Louisiana
Guam Radio Station
Northern Marianas Colleges, Saipan

Viewing and last respect will be on August 29, 2015 starting at 9:00 am at the CHC Chapel in Garapan.
His remains will be repatriated to Guam on August 31, 205 for cremation.

Please join us in Prayers

Jocelyn Jeter, children, and family

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Fermina Mafnas Cruz

December 04, 1955 – August 24, 2015

In Her New life, She now joins her:

Husband: **†Ignacio Reyes Cruz (Chala)**
Mother: †Isidora Camacho Mafnas
Brother: † Vicente Mafnas Salas
Grandson: †Jesus Zachary Cruz Reyes
Brother -In Law: †Pedro San Agustin
Sister-In Law: †Liz Salas

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children and Grandchildren:
Dolores and Policarpio Tereyama
(Fermina, Poliyanna, Joshua)
Maria M. Cruz and Fred B. Robert
(Ignacio, David, Jerrilyn, Frances, Tyara, Fernando, Aishabelle, Irieyana)
Jesus M. Cruz and Jayra C. Manglona
(Jerissa, Jay' aani, Janei'ah)
Ignacio M. Cruz and Porsche P. Masga
(Ignaisha, Vincent)
Juan M. Cruz
Tina and Eugene San Nicolas
(Eugene Jr., Corey, Karridad, Dylan)

Brother/Sister In Law:
Diego and Kay Salas and Children
Joaquin Salas and Children
Antonio and Maria Salas and Children
Edward Mafnas and Son
Francisco and Joanne Cabrera and Children
Martin Mafnas
Jose and Geraldine Mafnas and Children
Elizabeth and Pete Toves and Children
Lolita and Oscar Babauta and Children
Remedio and Daniel Buniag and Children
Soledad and Robert Babauta and Children
Rufina and Antonio Fritz and Children

She will also be missed by her numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, September 01, 2015. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Kristo Rai Church in garapan. Response Service will be at 8:00 am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Interment Service will take place at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest with her husband **†Ignacio**.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children and Family of the late + Ignacio Reyes Cruz and + Fermina Mafnas Cruz

Asia

Philippines seeks US help to protect troops in disputed sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense chief said he asked the visiting U.S. Pacific commander on Wednesday to help protect the transport of Filipino troops and supplies to Philippine-occupied reefs in the disputed South China Sea by deploying American patrol planes to discourage Chinese moves to block the resupply missions.

The Philippines has protested past attempts by Chinese coast guard ships to block smaller boats transporting military personnel, food and other supplies to a Filipino military ship outpost at disputed Second Thomas Shoal, which is also claimed and guarded by Chinese coast guard ships. The tense standoff at the shoal has lasted two years.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the commander, Adm. Harry Harris Jr., assured him of U.S. readiness to provide assistance, adding that the U.S. military has flown an aircraft at least once when a Philippine boat delivered supplies last year to Filipino marines marooned on the rusty naval ship that ran aground years ago at the disputed shoal.

AP journalists witnessing a resupply mission last year saw a U.S. military plane hovering above a Filipino supply boat, which a Chinese coast guard ship tried but failed to block.

Such U.S. military flights deter Chinese moves, Gazmin said, adding that Philippine resupply boats have been harassed less by Chinese coast guard ships after the deployment of the U.S. patrol plane.

"If there are Americans flying around there, we won't be troubled," Gazmin said in an interview. "We need to be helped in our resupply missions. The best way they could assist is through their presence."

Second Thomas Shoal, which is called Ayungin by Filipinos and Ren'ai by Chinese, and the nearby Spratly Islands lie about 120 miles (190 kilometers) from the western Philippine province of Palawan, and about 700 miles (more than 1,000 kilometers) from southern China. China's Foreign Ministry says Beijing has "indisputable sovereignty" over the shoal.

The Philippine navy deliberately ran one of its ships aground at the shoal in 1999, fearing that Chinese forces would occupy it after taking control of nearby Mischief Reef four years earlier. A Chinese frigate and maritime surveillance ships arrived in 2013 and the uneasy standoff remains unresolved.

The underfunded Philippine military has turned to the U.S., a longtime treaty ally, to acquire refurbished warships and planes as the territorial rifts intensified in recent years. Gazmin said Washington has agreed to provide two C-130 cargo planes previously used by the U.S. Marines. The aircraft may be delivered to the Philippine air force next year.

Suu Kyi: Myanmar rebels shouldn't sign peace deal in haste

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has warned armed ethnic minority groups not to rush into signing a nationwide cease-fire, a top party colleague said Wednesday, a position that pits her against President Thein Sein, who has made reaching a deal before November elections his top priority.

Talks between more than a dozen rebel groups and the government have been held on and off again for more than 18 months.

Win Htein, an executive of the opposition National League for Democracy, said party leader Suu Kyi expressed her opinion at a Saturday meeting with Maj. Htoo Htoo Lay of the Karen National Union, which has announced it is ready to sign. The KNU is one of the bigger ethnic minority groups that have been fighting the central government for decades to win greater autonomy.

"Suu Kyi said ethnic groups will have to consider not signing the nationwide cease-fire agreement before the Nov. 8 general election," he said. "It has to be meaningful."

Suu Kyi has so far stayed largely silent on the issue. But with elections around the corner and her party widely expected to win a majority of the seats, she has begun speaking out more on some issues. A deal before the election could boost the prospects of Thein Sein's ruling party, the NLD's main opponent.

Ethnic unrest was long used as an excuse for the army to exercise control over the country's administration, and is a very sensitive issue because it relates to the nation's unity.

Some of the larger ethnic parties are loosely allied with Suu Kyi's party, sharing the perception that the military-backed ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party is their antagonist.

It is unlikely, however, that Suu Kyi would have much influence over the ethnic group's position on the cease-fire, unless they believe her party can take power and offer a better deal. The military has veto power over any constitutional amendments regardless of the election outcome, limiting any major changes her party might try to make.

Forbes: Mall tycoon Henry Sy tops Philippines' rich list

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Property, retail and banking tycoon Henry Sy whose conglomerate owns the chain of SM Supermalls in his country and China has retained the title of the Philippines' richest person for the eight consecutive year, with his net worth up $1.7 billion from last year to $14.4 billion.

Forbes Philippines, which puts together the list, said Thursday that the value of Sy's publicly traded conglomerates SM Investments rose 17 percent and SM Prime Holdings 20 percent over the past year. His companies announced record income from banking and retail businesses and two new mall partnerships in 2014. Sy also has a stake in privately owned power supplier National Grid Corp.

John Gokongwei Jr. of JG Summit conglomerate that owns SM's rival, mall chain Robinsons, is the second richest with a net worth of $5.5 billion. Forbes said he moved up three spots after his company's stocks rose 30 percent, boosted by revenue growth in its petrochemical business and investments in Meralco, the Philippines largest power distributor. JG Summit also has interests in food and beverage, airlines, telecoms, property development, banking, retail, and hotels.

Forbes compiles the net wealth of the Philippines' richest based on stock prices and exchange rates, with the value of private companies based on similar companies that are publicly traded.

Alliance Global's Andrew Tan climbed a notch to the third place despite a drop in his net worth to $4.5 billion from the previous $5.1 billion. His company's stock price is 11 percent lower due to a drop in income from its resort and casino operations.

Lucio Tan of LT Group whose businesses include stakes in beverages, tobacco, distilled spirits, banking and property was fourth with a net worth of $4.3 billion. Tan is also chairman of Philippine Airlines.

Fifth was International Container Terminal Services' Enrique Razon Jr., who is worth $4.1 billion.

Rounding out the top 10 are are George Ty, the Abotiz Family, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, David Consunji, and Tony Tan Caktiong.

World

Barriers throughout history to keep people out — and in

BERLIN (AP)—As migrants by the thousands pour daily into Hungary, the government is hastily building a barrier along its 174-kilometer (109-mile) border with Serbia: three layers of razor wire and a 4-meter (13-foot) high fence. The migrants, however, are just climbing over the razor wire or crawling under it.

Here's a look at current and historic border barriers, an approach that has been taken for centuries with varying degrees of success.

HISTORIC BARRIERS

1. GERMANY: THE BERLIN WALL

Germany last year celebrated the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, built in 1961 by communist East Germany. East German leader Walter Ulbricht billed the 155-kilometer (96-mile) barrier as an "anti-fascist protective wall," protecting his citizens from the West, but in reality it was to stop his citizens from fleeing for the West. Despite the formidable obstacle and threat of stiff punishment, many tried to escape by tunneling under it, swimming past it, climbing on it or flying over it. At least 138 people died in the attempt.

The Berlin Wall, however, inadvertently provided the West with a great propaganda tool. U.S. President John F. Kennedy stopped by it when he visited Berlin and U.S. President Ronald Reagan issued a call in 1987 to then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall!"

2. BRITAIN: HADRIAN'S WALL

In the 2nd century A.D., the Roman occupiers of Britain built Hadrian's Wall, a stone barrier up to 20 feet (6-meters) high and dotted with forts, for 73 miles (117 kilometers) across northern England. The wall marked the northwest frontier of the Roman Empire and guarded Roman conquests in Britain from "barbarians" to the north. Historians have long debated its military effectiveness, but it did serve as a symbol of Roman power and a way to control cross-border traffic.

3. CHINA: THE GREAT WALL

In 220 B.C., China joined existing walls and fortifications to defend against invasions from northern "barbarians," marking the beginning of the Great Wall. Construction continued up through the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) until the wall became the world's largest military structure. Fortresses and watch towers were built along it to defend towns, passes or other strategic points and paths along the top of the wall allowed troops and couriers to move quickly. Estimates of its overall length vary, but according to UNESCO, which named the Great Wall a World Heritage Site in 1987, it once ran for more than 20,000 kilometers (12,500 miles).

CURRENT BARRIERS

1. UNITED STATES: THE MEXICAN BORDER

The United States has spent billions of dollars over the last decade fencing a third of its southwest border with Mexico in an attempt to stop the flood of immigrants. Stretching 650 miles (1,046 kilometers), the fence runs through California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. In some places it's a 15-foot (4.6-meter) high curtain of corrugated metal, while newer sections feature 20-foot (6.1-meter) high steel columns. Border apprehensions are down considerably, but immigrants still find ways to cross the border. Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has made the barrier a campaign issue, saying it is insufficient and that a wall should be built.

2. ISRAEL: WEST BANK BARRIER

Israel has built several walls and fences, including its West Bank separation barrier, which is to reach 450 miles (700 kilometers) when complete. Israel says the stretch of concrete wall, fencing and razor wire aims to keep out Palestinian attackers, while Palestinians say the barrier is a land grab that juts into territory they want for a future state.

Israel says the wall has been effective in reducing violence, but better intelligence, a changed political climate and other security measures may also be responsible. The wall remains incomplete and thousands of Palestinians who do not hold permits to enter Israel still make it in, looking for better-paying jobs.

Israel has a fence along its 130-mile (220-kilometer) border with Egypt to block migrants from strife-torn African countries, as well as fences along its borders with Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, where it has fought three wars since 2005.

3. BRITAIN: BELFAST'S "PEACE WALLS"

Northern Ireland's capital, Belfast, remains scarred today by scores of walls and other barbed-wire barricades designed to separate Irish Catholic and British Protestant districts. The British Army erected the first crude barriers in 1969 when Belfast suffered its first major Catholic-Protestant clashes in decades. The British territory's broadly successful peace process since the 1990s has done little to reduce the number or size of the walls. Analysts say Belfast's nearly 30 so-called "peace walls" do help keep the peace by making street clashes between rival groups more difficult.

4. SPAIN: CEUTA AND MELILLA

Spain has six-meter (20-foot) twin border fences around their two North African enclaves, Ceuta and Melilla. Both cities back the Mediterranean Sea on one side and are surrounded by Morocco. In recent years, the enclaves, particularly Melilla, have been frequently stormed by hundreds of migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan countries, hoping to get a foot into Europe. Most have been turned back at the fences. Increased cooperation between Spain and Morocco has reduced the number of scaling attempts dramatically in recent months.

4. SOUTH AFRICA: ZIMBABWE

The border between Zimbabwe and South Africa has seen countless crossings in the years since Zimbabwe's economic collapse, with estimates ranging from several hundred thousand to three million Zimbabweans immigrants in South Africa. South African police patrol a barbed-wire boundary sometimes reinforced with a steel metal fence, while Zimbabwean officials have erected a loose barbed wire fence. Still, the border remains porous. People known as "magumaguma"—the Shona language word for tricksters—will "facilitate" a crossing into South Africa for a price.

Off The Wall

Two homeless pythons given to a collector headed to sanctuary

Mack Ralbovsky, left, of the Rainforest Reptile Shows, gets assistance from Vermont game wardens Tim Carey, center, and Wes Butler as they remove a reticulated python, between 17 and 18 feet long, from the home of Pat Howard Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015, in North Clarendon, Vt. AP

NORTH CLARENDON, Vt. (AP)—Two giant southeast Asian pythons that were rescued by a long-time snake collector and were turned over to state game wardens are headed to a sanctuary.

The larger of the two reticulated pythons picked up Tuesday by experts from the Massachusetts-based Rainforest Reptile Shows with help from three Vermont game wardens was a female between 17 and 18 feet long, weighing about 220 pounds. A slightly smaller male was about 15 feet long and weighed about 150 pounds.

The snake collector, Pat Howard, said after the snakes had been loaded into plastic tubs for their trip to Massachusetts that he's "smart enough to realize that snake is bigger than I can safely take care of."

"Come feeding time is the most dangerous time to be around a snake," said Howard, who has kept snakes for decades and has almost two dozen smaller snakes in his North Clarendon home. "That's when anything goes, and you certainly want to be out of the way. A snake that size got ahold of you, if you didn't have any help with you, you're a goner."

The reticulated python, named for the geometric patterns on its skin, is one of the largest snake species in the world. It can reach almost 30 feet long and weigh 350 pounds.

Howard, who does educational programs with some of his snakes and sets up a booth at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland, said he got the pythons on Sunday from a New York man who couldn't keep them. He called the bigger one "humongous." He knew he didn't have the permits to keep them so on Monday he called state game wardens.

Howard said many species of exotic snakes can be bought inexpensively when they are small. People frequently call him when they can no longer take care of them.

Vermont Game Warden Chad Barrett, who handles exotic wildlife, said the two pythons were probably the biggest exotic snakes his agency has had to deal with. He praised Howard for promptly turning the giant snakes over to the proper authorities.

"This one went very smoothly," he said.

The Rainforest Reptile Shows, based in Beverly, Massachusetts, does educational and entertainment programs with snakes and other reptiles. It also will take homeless snakes, said Rainforest snake expert Mack Ralbovsky, who drove to Vermont on Tuesday with co-worker EmmaLee Eng to take the snakes back to Massachusetts.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Colorado police chief helps deliver own daughter on off-ramp

DENVER (AP)—A Colorado police chief helped deliver his own daughter after calling 911 from an interstate off-ramp. The Denver Post reports a dispatcher walked Eagle Police Chief Joey Staufer through the delivery in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Emergency responders arrived and took mom, Vio, and daughter to the hospital. The newborn girl is said to be doing well. Vail police dispatcher Kelly Klein said in a news release that situations like this one are why he got into emergency services. His name will be inscribed on a plaque at the communications center and he is being given a pink stork ribbon in recognition of his efforts.

Pair found asleep in garage after homeowner reports burglary

NEW CASTLE, Pa. (AP)—Police in Pennsylvania say officers found a couple asleep in a garage with the light on after a homeowner reported a burglary. New Castle police tell the New Castle News that they found the couple early Saturday, shortly after the homeowner called them. Police say the homeowner had gone downstairs and found a glass jar containing cash missing, some furniture moved and cabinets opened. She also found her safe on the back porch, her purse missing and her basement door forced open. Police say they found the sleeping intruders after noticing the garage light was on.

Texas couple rushes marriage vows to beat the stork

HOUSTON (AP)—It could have been the plot of a movie: A Houston couple improvises a hospital wedding in less than an hour after the bride goes into labor early. Stephanie Tallent was eight months pregnant and having an ultrasound Friday when she went into labor at Texas Children's Pavilion for Women in Houston. Fortunately she and fiance Jason Nese had gotten their marriage license the day before. Nese fetched the license from his car, along with a white sun dress Tallent meant to send to the cleaners. A chaplain was called and a party of doctors, nurses and clinic staff rounded up for the wedding. After the ceremony, Tallent was prepped for a cesarean section. Daughter Sophia arrived a few hours later at 6 pounds 3 ounces.

Science & Technology

Windows 10 now on 75M devices

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft said Wednesday that its new Windows 10 software is running on more than 75 million computers, tablets and other devices—in just under a month since the operating system was released.

Analysts say that's a good start, although the company is hoping to get the software installed on a billion devices over the next three years. Microsoft Corp., which is best known for making software for personal computers, is hoping Windows 10 will help it rebuild loyalty among users who are increasingly relying on tablets, smartphones and other devices.

PC sales have been shrinking in recent years and that trend is likely to continue, according to a new forecast from International Data Corp. Analysts at IDC predicted Monday that 2016 will mark the fifth consecutive year of declining PC sales worldwide.

Computer-makers are hoping to get a boost from consumer interest in Windows 10, which manufacturers are making available on new machines being sold this fall. But IDC noted in its report that Microsoft is also offering the new software as a free download for people who want to install it on their existing PCs.

The free upgrades probably account for the bulk of the 75 million devices now using Windows 10, said analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy, although he said more new models will likely be sold this fall.

Some of the machines getting Windows 10 are quite old. Microsoft executive Yusuf Mehdi, who released the new figures Monday, said in a Twitter post that, "even some devices manufactured in 2007 have upgraded to Windows 10."

Facebook testing virtual assistant in messaging app

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is the latest technology company to offer users a virtual assistant service.

Facebook is testing the artificial intelligence-powered service, called simply "M," inside its messaging app, Messenger, with some users.

David Marcus, the head of messaging products at the Menlo Park, California company, says in a Facebook post that M can do things like buy items for you, get gifts delivered and book restaurant reservations or appointments.

Apple's Siri is the most well-known virtual assistant. Microsoft and Amazon also have options.

Marcus says M aims to do more than other digital assistants on the market by completing tasks on the user's behalf.

With more than 700 million users, Messenger is one of the world's most popular messaging apps.

Ashley Madison users in US sue cheating website over breach

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eight people across the U.S. who registered to use Ashley Madison are suing the website for cheaters after hackers released personal and detailed information of millions of users, including financial data and sexual proclivities.

The lawsuits were filed between last month and Monday by Ashley Madison users in California, Texas, Missouri, Georgia, Tennessee and Minnesota. They all seek class-action status to represent the estimated 37 million registered users of Ashley Madison.

The lawsuits, which seek unspecified damages, claim negligence, breach of contract and privacy violations. They say Ashley Madison failed to take reasonable steps to protect the security of its users, including those who paid a special fee to have their information deleted.

Last month, hackers infiltrated Ashley Madison's website and downloaded private information. The details—including names, emails, home addresses, financial data and message history—were posted publicly online last week.

TECH Q&A

Early issues that emerged from Windows 10 upgrade

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Some consumers who upgraded PCs to Windows 10 are reporting unforeseen software compatibility problems.

Christopher Restemayer of Menahga, Minn., pointed out that many upgraded PCs can't locate their DVD-CD drives because Windows 10 lacks the correct software drivers for them. I originally wrote that Windows 10's lack of DVD playing software was the cause. But Restemayer's idea is backed up by several online forums. Consumers have three choices:

■ Go to the website of the CD-DVD drive manufacturer to look for a downloadable Windows 10 driver. Normally, you'd find the manufacturer's name by typing "device manager" in the search bar, clicking enter, then clicking the triangle next to "DVD/CD-ROM drives," but it's probably not there in this case. So search online for your PC's specifications.

■ Alter the PC's registry. This is risky and the average consumer shouldn't attempt it. For the technically inclined, see tinyurl.com/p3vhu7x or tinyurl.com/odhhtkp.

■ Reverse the Windows 10 upgrade to Windows 7 or Windows 8.1. See tinyurl.com/nqqgl8p.

Becky Wofford of Eldorado, Texas, says her HP LaserJet Pro wireless printer doesn't work well with Windows 10, and wonders if she'll have similar problems if she returns to Windows 7.

She most likely needs a Windows 10 compatible software driver for either her printer or her wireless network. Check out HP's Windows 10 help page (tinyurl.com/peejx72), which deals with software drivers, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth wireless connections, PC start-up and shutdown, and speakers and microphones. If the printer worked with Windows 7 before, it should again. If it doesn't, download the Windows 7 printer driver at tinyurl.com/qayn6kr.

Susan Thayer of Eagan, Minn., couldn't access her Yahoo calendar after upgrading to Windows 10.

To establish or improve the connections between Windows 10 and your calendar and email accounts, see tinyurl.com/q4qkkmr.

Jan Schieffert of Bloomington, Minn., said that, after reversing the Windows 10 upgrade to Windows 8.1, she could no longer use the HP PC's touch-screen controls when in tablet computer mode.

It seems that the PC has lost the Windows 8.1 software drivers for the touch screen. Those drivers can be restored with the PC's original Windows 8.1 recovery disks (back up your data first). If you don't have the disks, order them from HP at tinyurl.com/nlr6r68.

Sharon Turner of Atascadero, Calif., says her PC frequently prompts her to install Windows 10, which she doesn't plan to do. She wonders if the upgrade could happen automatically.

No, an upgrade will happen only if the user agrees to it. To get rid of the prompt, go to Control Panel, then System and Security, then Windows Update. For details, see tinyurl.com/o9k9hno.

Life & Style

Josh Duggar in rehab after admitting to pornography habit

NEW YORK (AP)—Days after he confessed to cheating on his wife and an addiction to pornography, Josh Duggar has entered rehab.

The ex-reality star checked himself into a long-term treatment center, according to his parents, Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar.

Their announcement Wednesday on the family's website did not specify the nature or duration of treatment, nor did it identify the facility. But the statement spoke of "a long journey toward wholeness and recovery."

"We pray that in this he comes to complete repentance and sincere change," his parents said, adding they are "deeply grieved" by his actions, which have "brought great insult to the values and faith we hold dear." The couple also said Josh's wife, Anna, with whom he has four children, is receiving "counsel and help for her own heart and future."

Last week, the 27-year-old Duggar made an online apology, calling himself "the biggest hypocrite ever" following reports that he had been a subscriber to the cheating website AshleyMadison.com, whose millions of customer records were recently hacked and made public.

His admission came weeks after he acknowledged in May having molested five underage girls as a teenager, including two of his sisters.

Those revelations led to the cancellation of "19 Kids and Counting," the hit TLC reality show on which he appeared with his 18 siblings and his parents in a portrait of wholesome, religious family life. The series ran from 2008 through its 10th-season conclusion in May.

In May, Duggar also resigned from the Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group, where he had worked as a lobbyist.

In this Aug. 29, 2014, file photo, Josh Duggar, executive director of FRC Action, speaks in favor the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act at the Arkansas state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark. AP

Ex-Olympian pens memoir on track career, stint as an escort

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Suzy Favor Hamilton said Wednesday that she will release a memoir next month that will touch on the mental health issues that compelled the former U.S. Olympian and University of Wisconsin track star to lead a double life as a Las Vegas call girl.

Favor Hamilton told her Twitter followers that the book, "Fast Girl," will go on sale Sept. 14. She tweeted that she's "so excited to finally share my story with you next month."

A blurb on publisher HarperCollins' website says the book will recount how manic depression and bipolar disorder drove Favor Hamilton to excel as an athlete. It will also explain how medication exacerbated her mania and made her become hypersexual, giving her a newfound strength and a desire that drove her to secretly become a $600-an-hour Las Vegas escort known as Kelly.

The blurb also promised that Favor Hamilton will discuss how she contemplated suicide after word of her secret life was revealed on The Smoking Gun website in 2012 and how she finally got the right medical help.

This Sept. 24, 2008 photo shows Suzy Favor Hamilton at her home in Madison, Wis. AP

"Today, thanks to diagnosis, therapy, Kelly has stepped into the shadows, but Suzy is building a better life, one day at a time," the blurb states. "Sharing her story, Suzy is determined to raise awareness, provide understanding, and offer inspiration to others coping with their own challenges."

Favor Hamilton, a middle-distance runner, competed for the U.S. at the Olympics in 1992, 1996 and 2000 but didn't medal. She won seven U.S. national titles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

New pals Lawrence and Schumer writing a comedy together

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer aren't just riding jet skis together. They're making a movie. A representative for Lawrence confirms Wednesday that Lawrence and Schumer are writing a screenplay. In an interview with The New York Times, Lawrence says the two are planning to star in the comedy as sisters. Lawrence seems thrilled by their newfound friendship and says she and Schumer are "creatively made for each other." The two became friends after the "Hunger Games" star reached out to the comedian to praise her recent film "Trainwreck." Photos of the two jet skiing went viral online earlier this summer.

Theater sees record sales after Kevin Bacon announcement

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut theater in Hartford says it had its highest sales day in its 52-year history after announcing Kevin Bacon will star in a stage adaptation of the story that inspired Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 classic film "Rear Window." Bacon made the announcement Tuesday. Hartford Stage officials tell the Hartford Courant they expect tickets to completely sell out in just a few days. The movie star will headline the haunting tale of a man in a wheelchair who witnesses a possible murder. It's been adapted for the stage by Keith Reddin and will run from Oct. 22 to Nov. 15. Bacon is a Golden Globe Award winner whose films include "A Few Good Men," "Apollo 13" and "Footloose." He's been on Broadway in "Slab Boys" and "An Almost Holy Picture."

Justin Bieber to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber will be back on stage at the MTV Video Music Awards. MTV announced Wednesday that the 21-year-old singer will be performing the song "What Do You Mean" from his forthcoming album at Sunday's extravaganza at the Microsoft Theater. Bieber last took the stage at the VMAs in 2010 with a medley of his hits "Baby," "Somebody to Love" and "U Smile." Other VMA performers will include The Weeknd, Pharrell Williams, Demi Lovato, Tori Kelly, A$AP Rocky, Twenty One Pilots and Macklemore and Ryan Lewis.

MSNBC ending Sharpton's daily show

NEW YORK (AP)—Al Sharpton is losing his daily show on MSNBC, with the network saying he'll be downshifted to the weekend. Sharpton's "Politics Nation" has aired at 6 p.m. EDT on weeknights for the past four years at the ratings-challenged news network. MSNBC is in the midst of wholesale changes under NBC News boss Andrew Lack, deemphasizing its left-leaning programming during the daytime hours in favor of more straight news shows. Sharpton's show occasionally put MSNBC in awkward positions, since he continued his political activism while doing some stories where there was racial controversy while remaining host of a news program. MSNBC said Wednesday that starting Oct. 4, Sharpton's "Politics Nation" will air at 8 a.m. Sundays. His daily show ends Sept. 4.

Broadway's leading ladies strike an online pose for equality

NEW YORK (AP)—Some Broadway heroines are rolling up their sleeves and posing in a familiar way to support National Women's Equality Day. Kristin Chenoweth, Laura Benanti and Patina Miller were some of the women Wednesday on Twitter or Instagram striking the classic Rosie the Riveter pose. Others included the leading ladies of "Hamilton"—Renée Elise Goldsberry, Jasmine Cephas Jones and Phillipa Soo—and the trio of women heading the "The King and I"—Kelli O'Hara, Ruthie Ann Miles and Ashley Park. It's an attempt to bring attention to the fact that there's no Equal Rights Amendment and to help it get reintroduced in Congress. Other participants included Beth Malone and Judy Kuhn from "Fun Home," composers Cyndi Lauper and Sara Bareilles, and actresses Laura Osnes and Stephanie J. Block.

Story of daughter's move back home is altered in the telling

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law quit her job and moved into my in-laws' basement six years ago. I think there may have been an emotional breakdown having to do with her work. I also think it upsets my mother-in-law to have her adult daughter living this life. Mom isn't willing to ask her to move out or even discuss the situation.

This was fine until my sister-in-law told my 10-year-old daughter that she lives with her parents because "they need her to take care of them." Nothing could be further from the truth! My in-laws are fine on their own.

My concern is that this is sending a bad message to my daughter, and she will think she will need to take care of her father and me in 30 years. I have told my daughter that kids do not need to move back in with their parents—even if they need help.

My question is, should I tell my mother-in-law about this or just drop it?

TAKEN ABACK IN NEVADA

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Your sister-in-law may have justified her living with her parents in order to save face after having been asked about why she was living in their basement. Because you have dealt with this with your daughter and the subject is a sensitive one with your mother-in-law, my advice is to let it go.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Can you please help me understand the rule of etiquette when borrowing a wedding dress? The owner was fully aware that the bride intended to alter it. It was obvious that it would need to be made several sizes smaller and shortened. Also, the bride stated clearly that she intended to lower the neckline and remove the sleeves. Everyone seemed happy the gown was being used again after 25 years of being in a box.

After the wedding, the dress was professionally cleaned, boxed and returned to the owner. She is now livid and contends that the dress should have been returned in its original state—just like it was loaned.

I'd appreciate your help settling this family dispute. How should this work?

BORROWING TROUBLE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BORROWING TROUBLE: It is a fact of life that when cloth is excised so a garment can be made "several sizes smaller," it cannot be put back in its original condition. If that was the expectation of the owner, it was unrealistic. The bride did the right thing by having the wedding gown professionally cleaned and boxed, and it shouldn't be necessary for her to make any apologies.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my sister-in-law gave me a beautiful watch for Christmas. It became my favorite accessory for any dressy occasion. However, a year ago her brother and I divorced. I still have the watch and would love to wear it, but I'm not sure if it would be appropriate or if I should give it away. Thanks for your input.

TORN IN DECATUR, ILL.

DEAR TORN: The watch was given to you with affection, and even if you wear it in your ex-husband's presence, the chances are small that he would realize who it was from. Because you like it, wear it and enjoy it. There is nothing inappropriate about doing so.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

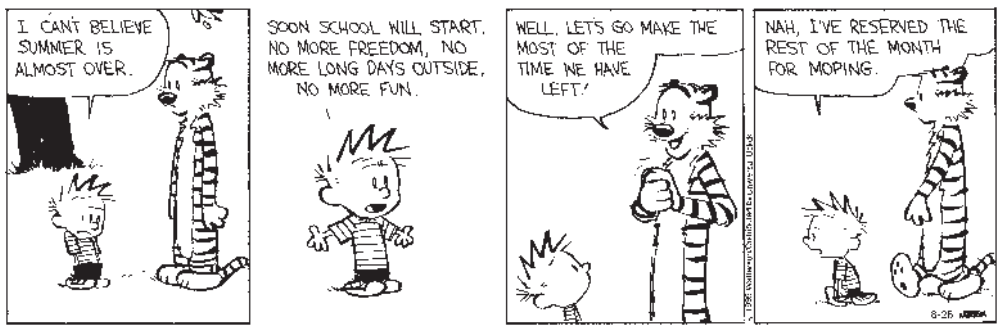
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

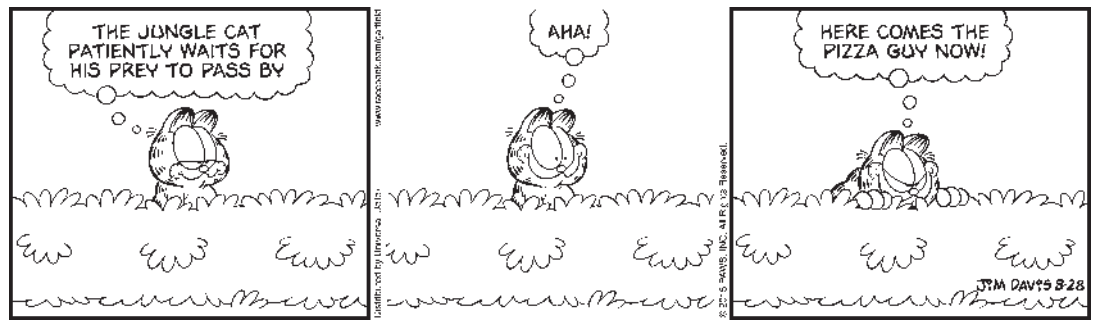
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T BELIEVE SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER.
SOON SCHOOL WILL START. NO MORE FREEDOM, NO MORE LONG DAYS OUTSIDE, NO MORE FUN.
WELL, LET'S GO MAKE THE MOST OF THE TIME WE HAVE LEFT.
NAH, I'VE RESERVED THE REST OF THE MONTH FOR MOPING.
8-28

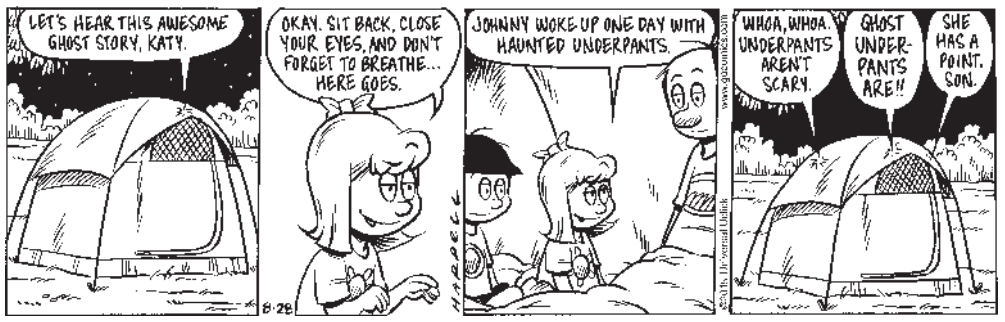
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



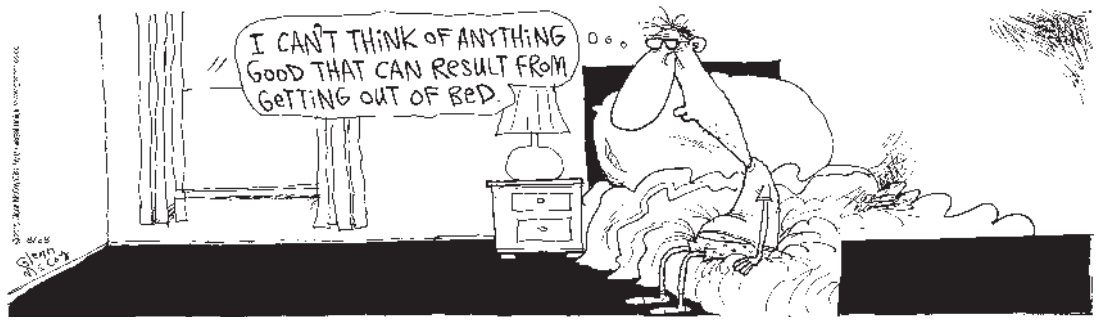
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LET'S HEAR THIS AWESOME GHOST STORY, KATY.
OKAY. SIT BACK, CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND DON'T FORGET TO BREATHE... HERE GOES.
JOHNNY WOKE UP ONE DAY WITH HAUNTED UNDERPANTS.
WHOA, WHOA. UNDERPANTS AREN'T SCARY.
GHOST UNDER-PANTS ARE!!
SHE HAS A POINT, SON.
8-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

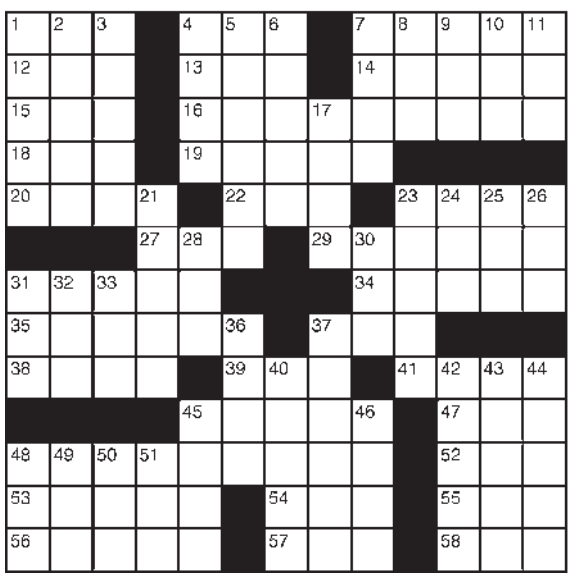
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bake sale org.
4 Listending abbr.
7 Animal
12 Sleep phenom
13 Bill's partner
14 Whitecollared thrush (Var.)
15 Sphere
16 Quasimodo, notably
18 Tramcar contents
19 Sequence
20 MacDonald's place
22 Ages and ages
23 Hardy cabbage
27 Help
29 Penn pal
31 Be a goldbrick
34 Material for "blue shoes"
35 Addicted
37 Likely
38 Longings
39 Sinbad's bird
41 Fly fast
45 Spanish appetizers
47 Weep
48 Car style
52 Bill
53 Openmouthed
54 Golfer's concern
55 Greek vowel
56 Sir's counterpart
57 Witnessed
58 Danson of "CSI"

DOWN
1 Evidence
2 Earth (Lat.)
3 Cautionary color
4 Reverberate
5 Went sightseeing
6 Individually owned apartment
7 Physicist Niels
8 Abrade
9 — Today
10 Sleuth
11 Antlered animal
17 Minimal change
21 Report card data
23 Hardly dexterous one
24 Brewery product
25 Started
26 Before
28 Mamie's man
30 Kreskin's claim
31 Bashful
32 Weeding tool
33 Charged bit
36 Colorless
37 Source of gum arabic
40 October birthstones
42 Square dance group
43 Preach, maybe
44 "Oops"
45 Not us
46 Distort
48 Deli meat
49 Khan title
50 Slight amount
51 Bkpr.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Florence Welch, 29; Armie Hammer, 29; Jack Black, 46; Shania Twain, 50.

Happy Birthday: Your emotional state of mind will inspire you to bring about change. Finding new ways to bring in more cash will lead to an opportunity that will result in greater freedom. Getting along with the people you do business with and being proactive about finishing what you start will help you advance. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 24, 30, 39, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Open up about your likes and dislikes and share your true feelings about the way you see your future unfolding. Once you share your thoughts, you will be in a better position to make wise choices and a strategic move. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Engage in courses or conversations geared toward teaching you things that can help you explore new interests, friendships and goals. Don't let anyone deter your learning process by making you feel guilty about wanting to expand your horizons. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offer your services and use your skills and knowledge to show others how capable you are. Networking will pay off if you express your interests and ideas to someone with clout, and may result in an interesting offer. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Speak up if you don't want to be saddled with someone else's responsibilities. Put a limit on what you will and will not do. A partnership needs time to grow. Share your concerns and listen to complaints. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Personal change will boost your confidence and make you feel good. You will attract attention from those you may want to form a personal or professional partnership with. An unusual offer will include something you used to do and enjoy. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Connecting with someone from your past will open up talks that will remind you of old goals and dreams you once had. It's never too late to revamp an idea and turn it into something that suits the trends of today. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take part in events that are conducive to meeting influential people or that will enable you to discuss your ideas with people who share your interests. Look for partnership possibilities. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Refuse to let emotional issues dictate what should take priority in your life. If you allow your personal problems to interfere with your work, you will find it hard to focus and get along with others. Separate personal and financial matters. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Check your sources before you choose to move forward with a plan based on the information given. Someone is likely to embellish a situation that will influence your opinion. Find out the truth before you make a move. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look over any contracts, legal or medical information that may need updating. Someone you have an emotional tie to will use underhanded tactics that could threaten your stability. Be careful what you promise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Question your own motives and the motives of anyone you are involved with personally or professionally. Keep your plans simple and affordable. A good idea can lead to financial gains if you dedicate time to developing what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Problems with colleagues or authority figures will arise if you share your feelings or information regarding your personal life. Being a good listener will be the key to getting along with the people you do business with. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, skillful and aggressive. You are assertive and inventive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3			2	7				4
					9			
		9				5		
	7		5		2			3
9								1
1			4		6		7	
		2				4		
			9					
6				3	1			8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	4	5	8	3	9	7	1
5	1	7	9	2	4	6	8	3
9	3	8	7	1	6	5	2	4
7	6	9	3	4	2	1	5	8
3	5	1	6	7	8	4	9	2
4	8	2	1	5	9	3	6	7
1	9	6	2	3	7	8	4	5
2	4	5	8	9	1	7	3	6
8	7	3	4	6	5	2	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CALICO CATS **Solution: 7 letters**

B	B	Y	L	A	P	E	R	M	M	O	U	S	E	S
S	R	A	B	E	V	A	R	B	W	P	A	T	T	I
R	E	U	S	B	A	I	P	H	P	T	O	O	A	B
E	E	S	S	K	A	S	I	E	N	R	P	T	N	E
G	D	T	N	H	E	T	H	E	T	S	E	O	O	R
N	G	S	T	E	E	T	G	O	E	S	G	Y	I	I
I	N	T	A	I	S	I	I	M	E	R	N	S	T	A
G	I	A	O	F	L	S	O	R	O	A	A	N	C	N
N	P	E	C	L	E	S	O	O	B	L	R	I	E	D
I	P	R	E	S	O	L	M	R	U	L	O	F	F	O
B	A	T	H	M	K	E	I	C	T	O	C	F	F	O
M	N	E	O	L	O	N	K	N	H	C	E	S	A	F
I	L	R	O	W	D	Y	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	T
L	H	F	E	L	A	M	E	F	B	L	A	C	K	A
C	F	L	E	A	P	O	W	D	E	R	O	L	O	C

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download our app. 8/28

Affectionate, Basket, Black, Brave, Breed, Brindle, Brush, Cat Food, Chromosomes, Climbing, Coat, Collar, Color, Feline, Female, Flea Powder, Folklore, Ginger, Groom, Hair, Intelligent, Laperm, Leash, Litter, Lucky, Meow, Mouse, Napping, Orange, Pattern, Pets, Prey, Senses, Siberian, Sniff, Spots, Tabby, Tortoiseshell, Toys, Treats, White

Yesterday's Answer: Volkswagen

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** is here! Purchase online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: The drinks are on the house

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

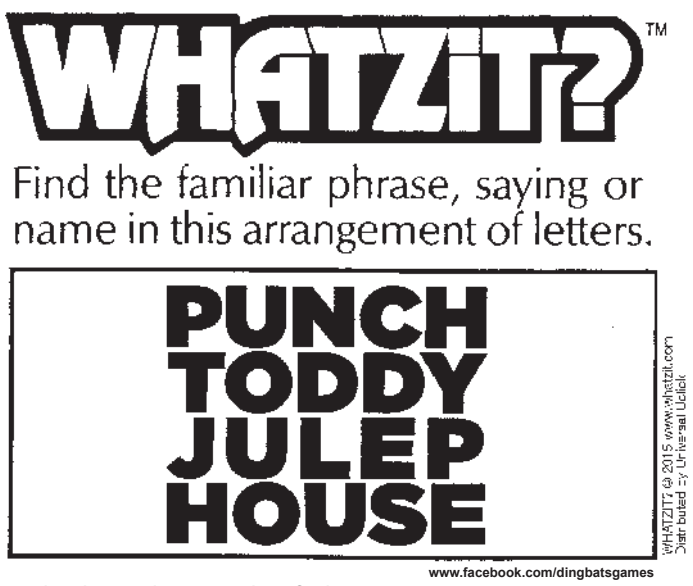
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

EMPLOYMENT

SAN VICENTE ESTATE – (1) Commercial Cleaner. (1) General Maintenance. 3-5 years experience. Valid

EMPLOYMENT

Driver's License. Police clearance required. Email resume to cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

1-General Manager - $1,100.00/bi-weekly. Minimum of 5 years experience. Fluent in Korean. Call

EMPLOYMENT

234-3201. Kimco Ent. Inc.

Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.
Position Title: Administrative/ Accounting Clerk
QUALIFICATIONS:
Holder of a Bachelor's Degree. Must have at least two (2) years work experience in public accounting office. Must have at least five (5) years work experience in administrative position and extensive exposure working with company executives Must have more than five (5) years experience in accounting work. Must be knowledgeable in income tax return preparation and compilation of financial statements. Must be knowledgeable in various accounting software such as Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience, beginning at $6.05/hour. Please mail your resume at P.O. Box 503198 Saipan, MP 96950.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CLUBMATES
Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK
Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER
Applicants must have a minimum of six (6) months related work experience; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

SEA ASSISTANTS
Applicants must be able to pass all required skills/tests for the American Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED certificate. . Energy and enthusiasm are required to deliver the lessons and activities offered by the hotel. Ability to comprehend and speak Japanese, Korean, Russian or Chinese language is preferred. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential along with punctuality and an upbeat personality. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. The applicant must be able to work under flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) UTILITY AIR CONDITIONER MECHANIC
Minimum of two (2) years work related experience in a hotel setting. Assist HVAC Supervisor in performing preventive and regular repairs and maintenance for the hotel's HVAC. A high school diploma, vocational degree or Associates degree is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, September 10th, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement
URGENTLY NEEDS
(2) MASONS
• With 4 to 5 years experience
If interested, please send resume to:
P.O. Box 504249, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 285-5354

Marianas Security Corp.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(6) Security Monitoring Officer
Skills/Qualifications:
Lifting, Surveillance Skills, Deals with Uncertainty, Judgment, Objectivity, Dependability, Emotional Control, Integrity, Safety Management, Professionalism, Reporting Skills. Must have two years of experience in the field of Security Monitoring. All security officers must have proper computer knowledge. Comply with this requirement. Drug Test and Police Clearance is required
Interested applicants may drop off resume at the office located at San Jose next to Joeten SuperStore or simply call 234-9675.

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Five (5) TECHNICIANS-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other requirements:
- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- EPA Section 608 (Preferred)
- Maintenance Technician & Electrical Safety Course in accordance with 29CFR 1910 Standard (Certification required)
- Must possess good communication skill

One (1) HEAD TECHNICIAN-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Read and interpret blueprints, technical drawings, schematics and computer-generated reports
- Establish and coordinate maintenance and safety procedures, service schedule and supply of materials required to maintain equipment
- Oversee installation, operation, maintenance and repair to ensure equipment are functioning according to specifications
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other requirements:
- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- 4-year Bachelor of Science degree from reputable College or University
- Must possess good communication skill

One (1) SHEET METAL WORKER
- Fabricate and install sheet metal & fiberglass products & equipment such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipes & furnace casings
- Set-up and operate fabricating equipment and machines, soldering and welding equipment
- Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans and specifications
- Minimum 10-year work experience required

One (1) HVAC/R SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Knowledgeable of HVAC-R Equipment and Parts sale
- Knowledgeable of product selection, listing of order and inventory
- Must be proficient on Computer Software such as Peachtree Accounting System, MS Excel and MS Word

One (1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- Perform duties and responsibilities to maintain and clean commercial buildings, offices, warehouses, space rentals, and private households in an orderly manner
- Perform basic to heavy cleaning duties
- Must be responsible, reliable & efficient at all times and Police Clearance required

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com.

IRONWOOD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments opening soon in Saipan.
For pictures, amenities, and application information join our contact list at
www.ironwoodhousing.com

Century Hotel
is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant position

Position: (1) Waitress
Qualification: High School diploma/GED preferred. At least a few months of training in serving and hosting experience is required. Restaurant and Beverage experience preferred. Must have knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to info@fiestasaipan.com. Application forms may be obtained at Fiesta Resort's security office located on the ground floor, south wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than September 4, 2015.

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply

Angels spoil Verlander's no-hit bid but lose 5-0 to Tigers

DETROIT (AP)—Justin Verlander lost a bid for his third no-hitter when Chris Iannetta lined a leadoff double in the ninth inning that landed on the left-field line, and the Detroit Tigers beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-0 Wednesday night.

Trying to become the sixth major leaguer to throw three no-hitters, Verlander settled instead for a one-hit shutout.

He was an inch away from so much more.

Iannetta's shot, just barely fair, kicked up chalk and rolled into the left-field corner. Verlander attempted to will it foul with body English, then arched his back in disappointment after the ball hit right on the line.

Verlander (2-6) retired the next three batters to finish his seventh career shutout and first since May 18, 2012, against Pittsburgh. The right-hander struck out nine and walked two in his first win since July 29.

He faced only 28 hitters—one more than the minimum—after inducing double plays following both walks.

Astros 6, Yankees 2

In New York, Evan Gattis hit two home runs, Collin McHugh excelled once again and the Houston Astros exceeded last season's win total, beating the New York Yankees.

The AL West leaders improved to 71-57, a year after going 70-92. With 34 games left on the schedule, the Astros already have achieved their best season since 2010.

The Yankees have lost five of seven, a slide that's cost them first place in the AL East.

McHugh (14-7) kept up a recent run of ace pitching, both for himself and the team with the top ERA in the league. Houston has won seven of nine, not permitting more than two runs in any game.

McHugh shut out the Yankees until Didi Gregorius hit a two-run homer in the seventh. He outpitched Michael Pineda (9-8) for the second time this year, and has allowed just seven runs in his last five starts.

Blue Jays 12, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Edwin Encarnacion hit a grand slam to extend his hitting streak to 21 games, helping David Price get a win on his 30th birthday in Toronto's victory against Texas.

Encarnacion sent his 26th homer into the Blue Jays' bullpen in left-center after Kevin Pillar opened a six-run sixth inning with a long ball that chased starter Colby Lewis (14-6).

Lewis issued four of a season-high 11 walks by Rangers pitchers.

Pitching on his birthday for the first time in the majors, Price (13-4) threw five scoreless innings after allowing Adrian Beltre's two-run homer in the first.

The AL East-leading Blue Jays won their fifth straight, while the Rangers dropped a half-game behind Minnesota in the race for the second AL wild card.

Jose Bautista walked four times and scored twice as Toronto went two games up in the division on the New York Yankees. The Astros moved 5 1/2 games ahead of Texas atop the AL West.

Giants 4, Cubs 2

In San Francisco, Buster Posey followed Brandon Belt's leadoff triple in the sixth with a go-ahead double, Jake Peavy won for the second time in six starts, and San Francisco stopped Chicago's six-game winning streak.

Kelby Tomlinson added an RBI double of his own in the sixth against Kyle Hendricks (6-6) as the Giants ended a three-game slide with their second victory in seven games. Nori Aoki homered for San Francisco.

With their first win in six meetings this month against the Cubs, San Francisco avoided its first six-game skid in the series since 1993-94.

Peavy (4-6) allowed five hits and two runs in 6 1-3 innings to beat the Cubs for the second time in his last six outings against them. Santiago Casilla finished for his 31st save.

Cardinals 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, John Lackey pitched seven strong innings and St. Louis beat Arizona for the seventh straight time.

Patrick Corbin limited the Cardinals to Mark Reynolds' solo homer in six innings. St. Louis quickly took advantage after Corbin left, scoring twice off David Hernandez (1-4) in the seventh. Kolten Wong had an RBI double and Matt Carpenter a run-scoring single.

Lackey (11-8) bounced back from a shaky start, giving up a homer to Paul Goldschmidt in the first and little else. Trevor Rosenthal earned his 40th save.

St. Louis moved 36 games over .500 (81-45), its best mark since finishing the 2005 season plus-38. The Cardinals have won 12 of 13 against Arizona.

Pirates 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, Andrew McCutchen homered and drove in four runs to help the Pittsburgh Pirates to a victory over the Miami Marlins.

Jeff Locke (7-8) pitched seven innings, allowing two runs and five hits for the Pirates, who have won four of five.

Pittsburgh (76-49) remains four games behind first-place St. Louis (80-45) in the NL Central race.

Miami's Chris Narveson (1-1) struggled in his first start since April 15, 2012, while with Milwaukee. He allowed seven runs and eight hits in 3 2-3 innings.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout reacts after striking out during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015, in Detroit.

Martin Prado homered for the Marlins.

McCutchen hit an RBI double in the first inning and helped spark a six-run second with a three-run home run, his 20th.

Mets 9, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Bartolo Colon tossed five-hit ball and struck out eight in seven sharp innings, Michael Cuddyer hit a long homer and the NL East-leading New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

Colon (11-11) bounced back from a rough outing in Colorado, helping the Mets improve to 18-6 since July 31. They took a 6 1-2 game lead over second-place Washington, which lost 6-5 to San Diego.

Cuddyer had an RBI double in the first inning off Jerad Eickhoff (1-1) and hit a two-run shot into the second deck in left field off Hector Neris in the eighth.

Twins 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Eduardo Escobar homered twice and Joe Mauer had a tiebreaking RBI single as Minnesota beat the Tampa Bay Rays for the Twins' sixth consecutive win.

Minnesota has its longest winning streak away from home since a six-game stretch Aug. 14-26, 2007. The Twins are 6-3 entering the final game of a 10-game trip Thursday night.

Escobar hit solo shots in the sixth and eighth innings, with the second one making 5-3. Mauer had a bases-loaded single and Trevor Plouffe hit a sacrifice fly as the Twins took a 4-2 lead in the seventh.

Dodgers 7, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Scott Van Slyke, A.J. Ellis and Yasiel Puig all homered during a five-run fourth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers held on for a victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Kike Hernandez added three hits and Adrian Gonzalez chipped in a ninth-inning RBI double for the NL West-leading Dodgers, have won two straight games after a season-high, five-game losing streak.

The Reds, who have lost 11 of their last 12 games and slipped to 1-8 on their 10-game homestand, reached left-hander Brett Anderson for three unearned runs. Anderson (8-8) gave up five hits with one walk, four strikeouts and a wild pitch.

Luis Avilan struck out Jay Bruce with the tying runs on base in the eighth and Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Padres 6, Nationals 5

In Washington, Justin Upton homered twice and had three RBIs, Matt Kemp added a two-run double and the San Diego Padres held on to beat the Washington Nationals.

Tyson Ross (9-9) allowed four runs in 6 1-3 innings for the Padres, who evened the three-game series and will try for their fifth straight series victory in Thursday's finale.

Denard Span doubled twice for Washington in his second game back from the disabled list following back spasms, but Gio Gonzalez (9-7) failed to pitch more than five innings for a sixth time in seven starts.

Ryan Zimmerman drove in two runs on productive outs for the Nationals, who trailed 5-0 midway through the fourth before closing to within a run after a three-run seventh.

Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 36th save.

Orioles 8, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Chris Davis, Manny Machado and Jonathan Schoop each hit a two-run homer off Johnny Cueto, and the Baltimore Orioles totaled five long balls in all to power their way to a victory over the Kansas City Royals that snapped a six-game skid.

Wei-Yin Chen (8-6) allowed three runs for the Orioles while scattering nine hits over six innings. The losing pitcher against the Royals in Game 3 of last year's AL Championship Series, he has now gone seven straight starts without a defeat.

Cueto (9-9) labored through five innings for Kansas City, allowing 10 hits and a walk. It was his second consecutive shoddy start after yielding a career-high 13 hits in a loss at Boston.

Rockies 6, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Brandon Barnes had three hits, including a two-run homer, and the Colorado Rockies extended Atlanta right-hander Shelby Miller's winless streak to 18 starts with a victory over the Braves.

Miller (5-11) looked like he might break the streak, leading 3-0 in the seventh, but he gave up four runs in the bottom of the inning before leaving with two outs.

Jose Reyes capped the rally with a two-out triple to right-center that scored Barnes and Charlie Blackmon. Daniel Descalso and Blackmon had the other RBIs in the inning for Colorado.

Simon Castro (1-0) picked up the win in relief for the Rockies, who won two out of three for their first series win at Turner Field since 2005.

Barnes tacked on a two-run homer in the eighth off Edwin Jackson.

Red Sox 3, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Rick Porcello pitched seven sparkling innings in his return from a triceps injury, leading the Boston Red Sox to a victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Porcello and Chris Sale had nearly identical lines, but Travis Shaw hit a two-run homer off Nate Jones (1-1) with two outs in the eighth. Robbie Ross Jr. then got three outs for the Red Sox before Junichi Tazawa finished the six-hitter for his third save in nine chances.

Porcello (6-11) allowed five hits, struck out five and walked none in one of his best starts in a disappointing debut season with Boston. The right-hander was acquired in a December trade with Detroit, and then agreed to an $82.5 million, four-year contract in April.

Mariners 8, Athletics 2

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez made just two mistakes in eight strong innings, Nelson Cruz hit his AL-leading 39th homer and drove in three runs and the Seattle Mariners beat the Oakland Athletics.

Seattle closed out its brief homestand with Hernandez rebounding after getting knocked around in his last start against the Chicago White Sox.

Hernandez (15-8) allowed a homer to Billy Burns on the first pitch of the game and a solo homer to Brett Lawrie on the first pitch of the seventh inning. Oakland's only other hit off Hernandez was a soft single from Billy Butler in the fifth.

Hernandez struck out seven, walked one and became the second AL pitcher to reach 15 wins.

Indians 6, Brewers 2

In Cleveland, Jason Kipnis homered and drove in three runs, and the Cleveland Indians used six pitchers in a win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Kipnis, who leads the American League with a .325 batting average, gave Cleveland the lead with a two-run double with the bases loaded in the second inning. He added a solo homer in the eighth.

Rookie right-hander Cody Anderson, starting in place of the injured Carlos Carrasco, allowed two runs in 4 1-3 innings. Carrasco, who leads the Indians in wins, was placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday with a sore right shoulder.

Jeff Manship (1-0) worked 1 1-3 innings for his first win since April 26, 2014, when he was pitching for Philadelphia against Arizona.

Humbled Vick at peace in reserve role with Steelers

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The crowd around the backup quarterback's locker was three or four deep. Somewhere in the middle, underneath the bright lights that never seem to go away, Michael Vick spent 13 minutes answering the same questions that never seem to go away.

Six years removed from the end of a federal prison sentence for his role in a dogfighting ring that changed his football career—and more importantly the arc of his life—Vick understands his mere presence in the NFL remains difficult for some.

As the newest member of the Pittsburgh Steelers spoke Wednesday less than 24 hours after agreeing to a one-year deal, a handful of protesters armed with homemade signs gathered outside the team's training complex to remind Vick of personal missteps he understands will follow him forever. One sign read: "Jail time is not enough."

"There still are some people who feel the same way about what happened," Vick said. "But I think you've got to look at the bottom line. You can't look to the past, because everybody's different from when they're 20 to when they're 35."

And the man in the white No. 2 jersey who spent Wednesday jogging and getting his left arm loose is decidedly different from the football supernova that once appeared to be a video game brought to life.

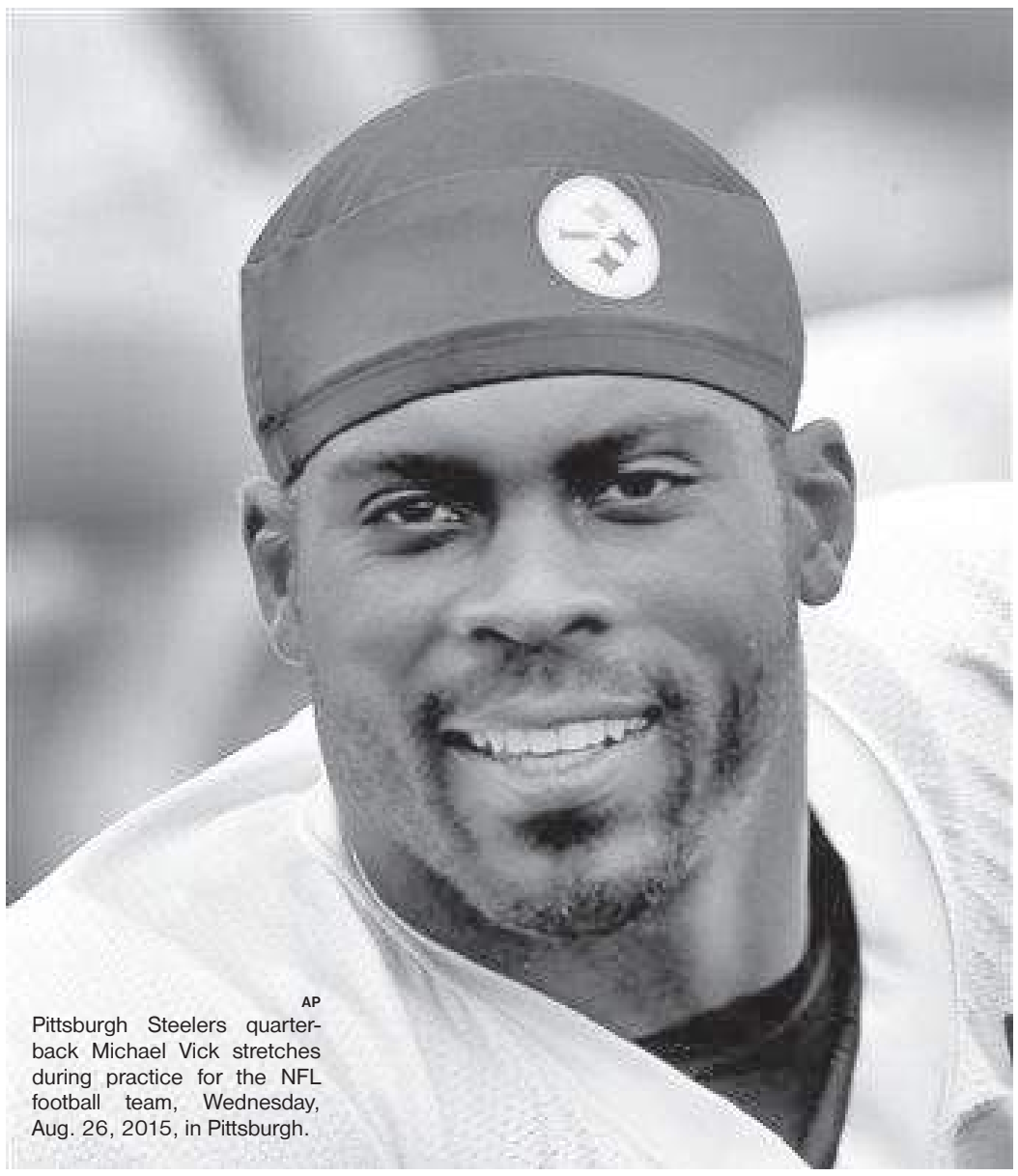
He's not a starter anymore. He's not young anymore. He's not the franchise anymore. He's not even a redemption case anymore. The Steelers don't need Vick to save them. Really, they kind of hope they don't need him at all. Ben Roethlisberger got a $100 million contract last spring and isn't looking over his shoulder.

Vick is simply Plan B, or maybe even Plan C. And he gets it, even if it took some getting used to last season while playing overqualified understudy to Geno Smith with the New York Jets.

"I admit that I didn't do it as well as I wanted to, because in my mind the position I was in was supposed to be different," Vick said. "But I think you've got to accept it first. I think I've been able to do that and come to grips with it, and my role is clear."

The role comes with its own unique circumstances. This is the duality of Vick in the twilight. He will forever be a pariah to some—his first day with the Steelers ironically coincided with National Dog Day—and yet for many players he remains as much myth as man.

Pro Bowl running back Le'Veon Bell was "starstruck" when he ran into Vick before the crisp informal workout that led to Vick's signing. Rookie quarterback/wide receiver Tyler Murphy idolized Vick when the now 23-year-old Murphy was in elementary school. The nod of respect is a reminder of how far Vick is from his prime, when he was spectacularly making it up as he went along in Atlanta and giving Steelers coach Mike Tomlin sleepless nights when he was running the secondary in Tampa Bay.



AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Michael Vick stretches during practice for the NFL football team, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015, in Pittsburgh.

Part of Vick believes a shred of that player still exists. It's what made sitting by the phone this summer after his largely lifeless year with the Jets so frustrating.

"I felt like I didn't lose a step, especially with my arm strength and my speed, and I just didn't understand why (I didn't get called)," Vick said. "But I kept my faith and kept working hard, because I knew that at some point, eventually, I would get a shot."

What that shot will eventually look like, however, remains unclear. Tomlin didn't rule out giving Vick an opportunity to get in the huddle on Saturday against Buffalo, simply calling what he saw on Wednesday "a good start."

"His talents are his talents," Tomlin said. "He can throw the football. He can put it anywhere on the field."

Vick is OK with that being enough for now. He's become pretty capable of learning on the fly during a nomadic second act that brought him from Philadelphia to New York to Pittsburgh. He's also adept at defusing any lingering tension about his misdeeds.

While the attendant at the team's front desk took phone calls from fans expressing displeasure at his arrival, he remained stoic when asked how he "can sleep with himself" at night, pointing to his work as an advocate against animal cruelty.

"I can't take it back, but the only thing I can do is to try to make up for it the best I can," he said. "I know it affected a lot of kids' lives and saving a lot of animals. So, we've made a lot of progress. We changed some laws and do some great things that I'm very proud of. I never thought I'd be doing that."

A few moments later the lights flipped off, the sea of cameras and microphones around him dispersed and Vick sat in his locker, picked up his phone and embraced the peace within.

Ex-NFLer Martin says he attempted suicide multiple times

MIAMI (AP)—Former NFL tackle Jonathan Martin posted on Facebook that difficulties in the profession led him to attempt suicide multiple times, and he wanted to share his struggle with social isolation to help others.

Martin, who retired this year, said his problems date to childhood in California, and to being told his entire life he was not "black enough."

"It nearly destroys you, many times, not fitting in," he wrote, referring to himself in the third person. "Your talent & accomplishments on the field never seem to be able to overcome the demons that you carry with you."

Martin made national headlines when he abruptly left the Miami Dolphins during the 2013 season amid reports he was bullied by teammates on the offensive line, including Richie Incognito. Martin underwent counseling, Incognito was suspended, and neither played for the Dolphins again. Incognito is now with the Buffalo Bills.

An NFL investigation determined Incognito and two other offensive linemen engaged in a pattern of harassment toward Martin.

In his post Wednesday, Martin referred to the Dolphins' locker room situation with a profane synonym for "lousy." Trying to fit in, Martin said, he abused alcohol, used marijuana and created a persona.

"You see football as the only thing that you are good at, your only avenue to make the shy, depressed, weird kid from high school `cool,'" he wrote. "Your job leads you to attempt to kill yourself on multiple occasions. Your self-perceived social inadequacy dominates your every waking moment & thought. You're petrified of going to work."

Martin played in 2014 for the San Francisco 49ers. He signed this year with the Carolina Panthers but hurt his back during offseason workouts.

After three years in the NFL, he said, he decided the risk of permanent injury wasn't worth it and retired.

"You let your demons go, knowing that, perhaps, sharing your story can help some other chubby, goofy, socially-isolated kid getting bullied in America who feels like no one in the world cares about them," his post concluded. "And let them know that they are not alone."

RACE

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brought 14 players to Fiji to join the girls U12, U14, and U16 and boys U12 and U14 singles and doubles events and defeated Fiji, American Samoa, Kiribati, Norfolk Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau in the rankings. Teams were ranked based on how far their respective players have gone through in the singles and doubles events.

Of the CNMI's 14 players, 10 made it to the quarterfinals, six in the semis, and two in the finals. Siblings Conatsu, Coume, and Ericka Tuttle advanced to the Round of 8 of the girls U12 singles, while Tania Tan, Malika Miyawaki, and Mimi Sakano had the same achievement in the girls U14 singles. Ken Song and Robbie Schorr and Carol Lee and Isabel Heras also marched into the quarterfinals in the boys U14 and girls U16 singles, respectively.

Tan and Lee went on to move into the finals with the latter eventually topping her division, while Conatsu, Song, and Schorr reached the semifinals. In the doubles, the Kaga siblings and Tan and Miyawaki barged into the finals, while Vincent Tudela (with FSM's Joab William), Lee (with Palau's Ayana Rengiil), and Sakano (with American's Samoa's Hanisi Ledua) earned Final Four berths. The 14 CNMI players, including boys U12's Ji Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik and U16's Ami Tsukagoshi, also anchored the North Pacific Team in the team event, battling the West and East squads.

"Our girls U12 won the team championship. Our girls and boys U14 almost won their division but went down in very tense matches. Many of our players played the finest matches of their life," Race said.

The Kaga sisters and Tuttle defeated their East and West counterparts in the team event, while the CNMI's girls U14 and U16 and boys U14 managed to get one win in the two-day team competition with a couple of their games going into the super-tiebreaker third set.

CHAMPS

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compete in the world stage.

"It was a dream to me," Ngirchongor was quoted as saying in the AP story. "When I was in middle school, I keep thinking how I'm going to make it to the worlds, then I just turned 21 in May, and I made it here. It was an honor."

The sprinter also treasured the experience of racing in the same track where Bolt also ran. The reigning Olympic champion in the 100m and 200m event joined Heat 3 of the qualifying race for the 200m run, while Ngirchongor competed on Heat 2 at the Bird's Nest Stadium, the same venue of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

''It feels awesome," Ngirchongor said in an interview after the race. "It's motivation because back home it's only me running. I was so amazed. I was like, 'should I meet him? Maybe after the competition.'"

Besides Ngirchongor, other Pacific athletes interviewed for the AP story were Fiji long jumper Waisale Dausoko and Samoa sprinter Jeremy Dodson.

Meanwhile, Ngirchongor, in a separate message sent to *Saipan Tribune* thanked his family and coaches for making his dream possible.

"I would not make it here if not for them. I know they are excited for me for this accomplishment. I am proud and honored to represent our islands and get a PB," he said. "I will never stop and continue training for future competitions."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	71	55	.563	—
New York	69	57	.548	2
Baltimore	63	63	.500	8
Tampa Bay	62	64	.492	9
Boston	58	69	.457	13½

Central Division

Kansas City	77	49	.611	—
Minnesota	65	61	.516	12
Cleveland	60	66	.476	17
Detroit	60	66	.476	17
Chicago	59	66	.472	17½

West Division

Houston	71	57	.555	—
Texas	64	61	.512	5½
Los Angeles	64	62	.508	6
Seattle	59	68	.465	11½
Oakland	55	73	.430	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	70	56	.556	—
Washington	63	62	.504	6½
Atlanta	54	73	.425	16½
Miami	51	76	.402	19½
Philadelphia	50	77	.394	20½

Central Division

St. Louis	81	45	.643	—
Pittsburgh	76	49	.608	4½
Chicago	73	52	.584	7½
Milwaukee	53	74	.417	28½
Cincinnati	52	73	.416	28½

West Division

Los Angeles	69	56	.552	—
San Francisco		67	59	.5322½
Arizona	62	64	.492	7½
San Diego	62	64	.492	7½
Colorado	51	74	.408	18

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Junior Tennis Team in Fiji

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Conatsu Kaga returns to Fiji's Saoirse Breen during their semis game in the girls U12 singles event in the 2015 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships last week at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

Ken Song hits a baseline return against Robbie Schorr in their battle for third place in the boys U14 singles event.

The CNMI players and coach Jeff Race pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the tournament.

Tania Tan, left, and Tahiti's Lea Lamorelle meet at center court for a brief discussion with the umpire.

Malikawa Miyawaki, left, and Tahiti's Naia Guitton cools off during a break in their semis match.

Robbie Schorr watches his return to fellow CNMI player Ken Song.

CNMI players and their North Pacific teammates warm up before a practice session.

CNMI players do warm-up drills.

Coach Jeff Race, right back row, poses with the players of the North Pacific Team.

CNMI players get ready for a practice session.

Angels spoil Verlander's no-hit bid but lose 5-0 to Tigers

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Sports

Humbled Vick at peace in reserve role with Steelers

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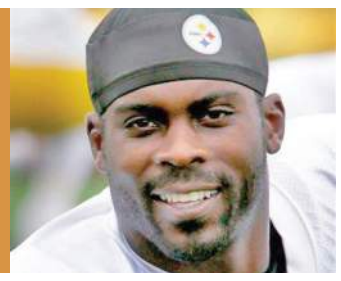

Ngirchongor makes AP story at World Champs

WWW. IAAF.ORG
The CNMI's Beo Ngirchongor is seen here from a screen grab during his interview with one of the reporters covering the 15th IAAF World Championships in Beijing, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

While the likes of Usain Bolt continue to dominate the headlines in the ongoing 15th IAAF World Championships in Beijing, China, the CNMI's Beouch Ngirchongor managed to get his brief moment on the spotlight.

Ngirchongor was one of the three Pacific athletes featured in an Associated Press story on the World Championships, entitled "For Pacific athletes, getting to worlds is what matters most" and appeared at Yahoo Sports.

Ngirchongor told AP reporter Justin Bergman how happy he was to set a personal best time in the 200m run (23.93 seconds) as his hard work paid off. The CNMI runner added in an interview with the AP reporter how he woke up early morning to train before going to work to prepare for the World Championships. He also said ever since he started running, his goal is to

See CHAMPS on Page 26

Blue Haus/IT& caging resumes with 5 games

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Red Rice's Michael Cabanas pulls up for a shot against Pasion De Amor's Ray Pestillos during the second half of their game in the Blue Haus/IT&E caging last Saturday at the Navy Hill court.

Two more teams will make their debuts as five games will be played in the 2015 Blue Haus/IT&E Inter-Color Basketball League this weekend at the Navy Hill court.

Eh Di Wow will see action for the first time in the nine-team league as it takes on Purple Rain at 5pm this Friday. In the curtain-raiser this Saturday at 4pm, Oh My J will also play its first game of the season when it duels Hard Kulangot. In the second match at 5:30pm, Makalaro Lang will battle Red Rice. For the Sunday pairings, it will be Kidlat versus Wag Kang Pabebe in the opener and Oh My J against Eh Di Wow in the second match.

Pasion De Amor drew a bye this weekend after playing back-to-back games at the resumption of the league last Saturday. Pasion De Amor also has the early lead with its 2-0 record. It got its first victory at the expense of Kidlat, 73-69, and made it two in a row after pulling off a nail-biting win over Red Ice, 90-89.

Also earning victories in the league that was suspended for nearly three weeks due to Typhoon Soudelor were Makalaro Lang and Wag Kang Pabebe. Makalaro Lang bagged a 74-61 win over Hard Kulangot, while Wag Kang Pabebe topped Purple Rain, 67-50.

Wag Kang Pabebe will have to draw another solid game from Brendon Talania when it faces Kidlat to gain its second win in as many games and join Pasion De Amor on top of the team standings. Talania, who scored 29 points in their rout of Purple Rain, will get help from Christian Devero, JR Mina, and Ariel Abadilla. Kidlat, on the other hand, will be bannered by Manolo Manalo, Justine Zapanta, and White Capalad.

In the Makalaro Lang-Red Rice, Ivan Devero is expected to anchor the former's offense, while lefty wingman Angelo Fernando is pressed to show up early for the match to contribute to the latter and make up for the costly error he committed in their one-point loss to Pasion De Amor. Errol Peredo and Ernie Moises will also suit up for Makalaro Lang, while Red Rice will have Darwin Barbo and Michael Cabanas teaming up with Fernando. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Race touts junior players games in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's junior players received high remarks from coach Jeff Race at the conclusion of the 2015 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

"After nine days of tennis, the CNMI finished second in the Pacific Oceania. Tahiti came in first again. Without six of our top players joining us, it is a very excellent result." Race said an in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Wednesday night after the awards ceremony for the individual and team events in the annual competition.

The Commonwealth

See RACE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Malika Miyawaki, left, and Tania Tan pose with their silver medals in the doubles event of the 2015 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championships during the awards ceremony last Wednesday in Fiji. Also in the photo is Fiji Tennis Association president Richard Breene.